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IRAN:
Majles Sessions

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IRAN:
Majles Sessions

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RESALAT Reports on Majles Sessions

22 Feb

94LA0121A Tehran RESALAT in Persian 23 Feb 94 p 5

[Text] Legislative and Parliamentary Affairs Division. The Majles met in open session yesterday chaired by Mr. 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri, and deputies Shoja', Kamyar, and Movahedi-Saveji, from the cities of Bandar-e Enzeli, Urmia, and Tehran, gave speeches. Then the Majles took up its agenda, and we direct the attention of our respected readers to the detailed proceedings.

'Abdol-Ghoffar Shoja', Deputy From Bandar-e Enzeli

If attention is given to the agricultural sector, it will assuredly be the first sector to replace oil.

The first preagenda speaker at yesterday's open Majles session was Shoja', deputy from Bandar-e Enzeli. During his speech he offered congratulations and felicitations on the anniversary of the Islamic revolution of Iran and the blessed month of Ramazan. He added: Today America, as the leader of the world's domineering nations, through the use of the measures it has devised and promoted in the Security Council, considers the United Nations to be its agent in creating the world's cultural, economic, and military policy in the new world order. Through the use of military tools and implements, it is thinking of changing the geographic borders of nations and controlling the world's strategic economic points, such as the oil-rich Persian Gulf sheikhdoms, which submit to domination.

The speaker discussed the fact that America, despite its claim to world leadership, is one of the world's most accursed and vulnerable nations. He said: Economically, America is now one of the world's most indebted nations, and is considered one of the most insecure nations socially. The Islamic Republic of Iran, despite 15 years of tricks by world imperialism, through reliance on just Islamic government with the backing of its great people, is in full control of all its current affairs and its First and Second Five-Year Plans. Today it is one of the most secure nations in the region and in the world in terms of political, cultural, and economic independence.

Continuing, he said: Proper and committed Islamic management, serious supervision and control of executive affairs, timely and appropriate encouragement, the exposure of cultural and economic criminals, and dealing with them in an effective and revolutionary way can be the basic factors in achieving full independence for the government.

Careful supervision and attention to the nation's potential resources can bring us closer to cultural independence without dependence on foreign specialists, with a minimum of foreign exchange. An example is the agricultural sector. A look it its performance tables under the First Five-Year Plan will confirm to government officials that if more attention is given to this sector, it will assuredly be the first sector to replace oil with agricultural and livestock exports, and it will provide all the nation's domestic needs.

During his speech, the deputy from Bandar-e Enzeli discussed the fact that the nation's forests and pastures are being destroyed and that in previous years we had floods and heavy losses because of the lack of plant cover in the vicinity of the nation's cities and villages.

He called on officials to create suitable work environments and to employ sincere and specialist manpower along with real planning in order to be able to take basic and useful steps to save the nation's natural resources.

He also criticized the dysfunctional situation with fisheries and fishermen in the northern part of the country in the Caspian Sea. He said: Another problem in the area arises from the lack of real and timely policymaking by officials of the Iran Fisheries Organization, idle fishermen, and the excessive waste of time for the region's Majles deputies and officials. Today, in view of the shared use of the fish in the Caspian Sea by five nations on its shores, waiting for fish in a launch cannot answer the economic needs of the fishermen in the northern part of the country.

Shoja' also said: The phenomenon of the rising waters of the Caspian Sea in the last few years and the lack of persistent and timely action on the part of the appropriate officials has brought heavy losses to the people. Unfortunately, real steps were not taken by the Plan and Budget Organization to provide emergency government assistance, and this in itself calls for serious questions and memos to the officials in charge. I, therefore, request that quick attention be given to this important matter.

The speaker discussed the liberation of the newly independent Central Asian nations, most of which are Muslim and can be in close contact with Iran via the Caspian Sea. He said: Until now, with the passage of several years, free trade has not taken place between Iran and the other nations of the shores of the Caspian Sea, and this in itself is considered a turning point in trade and the spread of Islamic culture. Unfortunately, the European nations, seeking to dominate the culture and economy of the nations of the region, went into these countries more quickly than we did and have made the most of them culturally and economically.

At the end of his speech he asked the respected president of the republic to give special attention to opening Bandar-e Enzeli, this old port in the north, to free trade with the nations of Central Asia.

'Ali Kamyar, Deputy From Urmia

The Majles and the government must discuss economic realities with the people, and not keep saying that our situation is good.

The next speaker was Kamyar, deputy from Urmia. He thanked the exalted leader for appointing a new chief of

the Voice and Vision organization. He said: His excellency has repeatedly demonstrated that His Holiness, like the late Imam, considers the Majles to be at the head of affairs and that he gives special standing to the views of the Majles.

He then discussed the economic changes in society. He said: The topic of the day in our country is the price of foreign exchange, and everyone is analyzing the government's decisions on this matter. However, an important point on which everyone must focus is the failure to deal seriously with the economic problems.

While we believe that world imperialism suffered the greatest damage with the establishment of the sacred Islamic government, we must accept the fact that in response it will direct the greatest pressure and aggression at us.

We all know that since the imposed war, by their own admission they have been unable to deal with great Iran. Since that time they have made a serious and firm decision to fight us culturally, politically, and economically. It is appropriate to understand the imperialist positions in this regard with sufficient care. Their goals must be analyzed and we must resist them as necessary.

He said that we must assess our strengths and weaknesses. He said: The exalted leader sounded the alarm in the cultural dimension two years ago, when he declared a general mobilization against the cultural invasion, and everyone has at least recognized this as an important danger.

The speaker continued: It must be accepted that our economic situation today is the result of the failure to deal seriously with economic issues. We have spoken about attention to production, but we have been satisfied with talk. We have spoken about low consumption, but in practice we faced growth in consumption. We have spoken about agricultural growth, but every day we witness agricultural malfunctions. We have spoken of the need for nondependence on oil, but in practice we have done nothing. We have repeated slogans about domestic goods, but our markets are full of foreign goods. How effective have we been reaching our goals to fight rural emigration, the growth in unemployment and high prices that keep rising every day? We must realize that the drop in the price of oil is the result of several years of world imperialist policy, for which they invested year after year with no other aim but to damage Islamic Iran.

The speaker explained: If we wait too long to move, if we do not awaken soon, if we do not make a serious decision to fight back, criminal America will achieve the next in its series of goals, which is to make us indifferent towards the sacred principles of our Islamic government.

The Majles and the government must discuss economic realities with the people, and not keep saying that our situation is good. Yes, our situation on the political issues is good, but on the economic issues our situation is nothing to brag about. It is true that we are in a better situation than our neighboring countries, but this is not enough. Their situation is not comparable to ours. We are independent and we must remain truly independent. We must evaluate our own specific circumstances.

Continuing his remarks, the deputy from Urmia noted: Why should we not tell the people that our nation's income is not as high as our consumption? The nation's income is not enough to meet its heavy expenses. You must realize that the nation's oil revenues are several times less than they were 15 years ago, and on the other hand our expenses are several times greater. Our great nation must realize that the front line in our religious crusade is now the battle against economic plots. They must realize that the rise in the price of foreign exchange is not in any way the desire of the government, and that the government itself suffers the most from this.

The growth in the price of the dollar depends on the demand for it. If we decrease our own need for foreign exchange, the price of foreign exchange will automatically go down. We are proud that in the year 1371 [21 March 1992-20 March 1993] we imported $28 billion in goods. You must look at the statistics and see what percentage of this was essential goods. When we compete most heavily to buy foreign goods and when we all believe that we must buy famous foreign brands when we buy goods, then we can no longer expect domestic goods to develop and to rise to acceptable standards of quality.

Kamyar added: Don't we realize that Japan, which is at the highest economic level, reached this position by consuming its own goods.

He mentioned pouring banking facilities into the commercial sector, allocating high profits to the banking facilities because the production sector cannot pay the profits, and reducing the ability of the government banks to work with the noncommercial sector on such practices as the payment of housing allowances to teachers, and other things. The speaker then discussed the high percentage of unemployment in the municipality of Urmia and the stagnation of factories.

'Ali Movahedi-Saveji, Deputy From Tehran

Why don't the Speaker's Council and the public relations office defend the Majles against those who speak against it?

The final preagenda speaker was Movahedi-Saveji, deputy from Tehran. During his speech he said: Today one of the issues the imperialist world is trying to exaggerate is the issue of Salman Rushdie and his *The Satanic Verses*. All the Satans, the imperialist powers, and the enemies of Islam who have long been hostile towards Islam and the Muslims are supporting a filthy, spying, and mercenary individual who really wrote those things for money.

The deputy from Tehran discussed the fact that His Holiness the Imam's (peace be upon him) command

concerning Salman Rushdie is the command of Islam and absolutely cannot be changed. He said: If Islam, the glorious Koran, and the divine verses in the Koran can be changed, this command can also be changed. As for the matter of carrying out this command, it must be done by people who are undertaking this sacred defense of Islam and the sanctity of prophecy with sacred intent for the sake of God. This will actually be a great act of worship they will be performing and it has nothing to do with a prize, money, or a reward.

In the same regard the speaker added: Of course, for every great Islamic and religious obligation, if those who spend money for the sake of God or who put themselves in danger are killed, they have performed a great act of worship and have been martyred on the path of God. The matter of setting a prize or a reward for killing such a filthy person may have something to do with an individual or a group, but it has nothing to do with the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

He also continued: Throughout this period the Majles has neither studied nor approved any budget as a prize or reward for killing such a filthy person. However, if in Iran or anywhere else in the world any Muslim is able to spend his assets or wealth to please God and eliminate this filthy person, there is no problem with that either.

The deputy from Tehran discussed the pressuring and slaughtering of the people of Lebanon, Palestine, and Bosnia and Herzegovina. He said: I think that although Israel or America are really behind all these crimes, savage killings, torture and occupations of land, it is the hand of Zionism that has come out of America's sleeve, both in the present and in the past. In Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Zionists behind the Serbs are the ones who are in the European and American governments. They are trying to support these kinds of crimes financially and through propaganda and provisions.

Movahedi-Saveji discussed the prestige and status of the Majles. He said: I have a complaint against the respected Speaker's Council and especially the Majles public relations office. Why doesn't the Speaker's Council and especially the Majles public relations office provide timely, appropriate, rapid, and truthful statements defending the Majles against those who speak against it, who are actually violating the Constitution and slandering the Majles?

In the same regard the speaker added: A gentleman, competent or not, had a position of responsibility in one of the provinces. Finally he was fired and then he got another position and comes and tells that our Constitution is defective because it provides for interpellation of the president of the republic, but the president of the republic does not have the right to dissolve the Majles.

Deputy From Jiroft's Letter to Newspapers Concerning Recent Statements by the Former Governor-General of Kerman

Although I have no intention of answering the issues raised by the respected former governor-general of Kerman and informing the dear and brave people of Iran, in general, and from Kerman Province, specifically, about what happened among the majority of the respected deputies from Kerman, because the honor of an outstanding public figure, His Holiness Ayatollah Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the beloved president of the republic, requires that the sword of the pen remain in its sheath and that I not upset him, God willing his excellency will permit me to write at the appropriate opportunity about what happened during and before the time I was a deputy and to set it before him as a means of unburdening my heart and reducing my pain. However, I expect the respected individuals in charge of the newspapers, especially the influential newspapers RESALAT, KEYHAN, ETTELA'AT and SALAM, to print the following material concerning what they published about Mr. Mar'ashi, on the same pages and in the same columns and under the same headlines, for the information of the dear people.

1. The decision that he should not be a governor-general was made by his excellency, the president of the republic.
2. Have the 12 years of his experience been wasted or not? Who should answer?
3. If the government and the Majles are not together (God forbid) who must know?
4. The respected deputies definitely know that the Fourth Majles was formed with local sentiments and not on the basis of national interests!!
5. It is no secret to anyone that the dissolution of the Majles is a prerogative of the absolute vice regency of the chief jurisconsult and that during the revisions and amendments to the Constitution, His Holiness Imam Khamene'i did not permit this to be added to the Constitution, but who should know if the Constitution is defective or not?
6. Did the deputies from Kerman think the executive apparatus is like a corporation and that some of the officials were from the Movali ol-Movahedin Institute and the Milad, Mahan, Kerman Vehicle and other companies..., which is one of the remaining distinctions of Mr. Mar'ashi [as published]?

   The answer is known to those who are aware of the Koran and the Book of God.
7. Why did many of the high-level officials of Kerman Province refuse to obey the decision by the respected president of the republic? Why did they abandon the ceremony of introduction on 11/30/1372 [19 February 1994], and leave the dear toiling and hard-working personnel in the office of the president of the republic waiting? They did not listen to the advice from the respected and dear Friday Imam of Kerman. They forced the workers and personnel of some of the municipal offices and other places to withdraw as if taking sanctuary during the blessed month of fasting. It is not clear who will answer for that!

8. Time has given the answer to "it is not yet too late."
9. You must ask the people of Jiroft about the "model governor-general"!!
10. The crying of people "which did not come from emotional women, but from men who were crying about all their limbs and wounds" was observed by all the dear passengers who flew without Mr. Mar'ashi after a long delay.
11. The servants of God, the respected deputies of Kerman, Sirjan, Zarand, Kohnuj, and Baft, and the respected minister of the interior...[as published]?
12. Perhaps they have started addressing a second-year college student in economics as "engineer" and we did not know?
13. Unlucky 13! It definitely was not, is not and will not be unlucky. What firmer evidence that it is a blessed number can there be than that after 12 years of successful service he is still friendly, although it is difficult and it involves these things!
14. God grant that this be the last press battle for the respected former governor-general of Kerman and the deputy from Jiroft.

With apologies to the sacred office of president of the republic.

Zadsar Jirofti

Deputy from Jiroft

Legislation

Bill To Change the Legal Status of the Large University Presses

The first item on the agenda at yesterday's open Majles session was the report from the second consultation of the Administrative and Employment Affairs Commission concerning the Bill To Change the Legal Status of the Nation's Large University Presses and Institutions of Higher Learning, for which Article 1 and its notes were approved by the deputies.

Article 1: All the nation's universities and institutions of higher learning are authorized to operate their presses as corporations.

Note 1: The wages and benefits of the workers in the aforementioned companies will adhere to the Uniform Payments System Law.

Note 2: For presses that are operated jointly by more than one medical university or nonmedical university, the shares of each university in the aforementioned press must be specified in the charter.

Note 3: The charters for the presses of the universities mentioned in this law whose status is changed to a corporation will be prepared by the Ministry of Higher Education and the Ministry of Health Care and Treatment, and will be approved by the Council of Ministers after approval by the National Administrative and Employment Affairs Organization.

Note 4: The presses covered by this law are required to allocate at least 50 percent of their work capacity to the printing of books and academic, educational, and research journals and publications for the nation's universities and institutes of higher education and research, and they must operate in such a way that their printing affairs are not disrupted or suspended.

Note 5: Any form of government aid to make up for losses is prohibited and the profits made must be allocated to develop and equip the same printing press.

Bill on the Use of Weapons When Necessary by Police Agents

The second item on the agenda was the report from the first consultation of the Councils and Domestic Affairs Commission Concerning the Bill on the Use of Weapons When Necessary by Police Agents, the general form of which was approved.

In view of the need to employ weapons by police officials in the performance of their lawful responsibilities in sensitive cases, which may sometimes lead to the death or injury of suspects, and in view of the fact that appropriate legal regulations have not been set exempting these kinds of agents from penalties for the performance of their lawful responsibilities and maintaining security in the cities, this has disturbed agents in many places, while suspects have not heeded warnings from agents because they are not authorized to fire.

In events that have taken place in Mashhad and elsewhere, agents did not have the authority to perform their missions at borders, guard stations and roadside interrogations. This bill permitting agents to use their weapons was therefore submitted and its general form was approved by the commission. It is worth saying that this bill must be studied in the second consultation.

Rejection of Motion To Detach the National Grain Organization From the Ministry of Commerce and Attach It to the Ministry of Agriculture

The final item on the agenda was the report from the first consultation of the Administrative and Employment Affairs Commission concerning the rejection of the Motion To Detach the National Grain Organization From the Ministry of Commerce and Attach it to the Ministry of Agriculture, continued consideration of which was postponed to the next session.

Majles Notes

Budget for Fighting the Cultural Invasion and Its Expenditures

Yesterday, in a conversation with RESALAT's parliamentary correspondent, Dr. Kamran, a member of the Majles Islamic Guidance and Art Commission, criticized the performance of the nation's cultural organizations with regard to Note 55 of the budget bill.

He said: Last year, on the initiative of the Majles and for the purpose of confronting the enemy's cultural invasion, a special budget was allocated in the form of Note 55 for the purpose of implementing suitable programs in this regard. This year the government also included this in its 1373 [21 March 1994 -20 March 1995] budget bill, but in view of most of the members of the commission, the performance this year by the organizations concerning this note was not positive.

In the year 1372 [21 March 1993-20 March 1994], instead of submitting appropriate programs for resisting the cultural invasion and spending this budget on that, the relevant organizations spent the money on the cultural programs they were already carrying out, and this is in conflict with the main goal. To answer the main message of Note 55, which is to carry out appropriate programs, the cultural organizations used this budget to buy organizational houses, to help the offices of some of the Friday imams, to build offices in some parts of the country and to complete some of their projects that were half-complete. These things are in conflict with the goals of this note.

We hope in the year 1373 the organizations will refrain from spending the money in this budget on the current tasks and day-to-day work of the organizations and will implement real projects to fight the cultural invasion.

Continuing, he said: Of the 60 billion rials allocated this year to fight the cultural invasion, about 80 percent was spent on programs other than fighting the cultural invasion.

Dr. Kamran also added: The Plan and Budget Organization's supervisory responsibility in this regard is not proper and complete, and this organization must exercise greater supervision to prevent this type of performance.

Letter From a Number of Deputies Concerning the Printing of Bills

More than 80 Majles deputies sent a letter to the president of the republic asking that government institutions no longer publish bills and calendars at the beginning of the new year.

The full text of this letter is as follows:

To His Holiness Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani, respected president of the Islamic Republic of Iran:

Peace be upon you,

With wishes for your excellency's success and acceptance, as you know, every year the ministries, companies, banks, and bodies of the Islamic revolution print large numbers of various calendars and bills at heavy cost to the Muslim treasury, and yet at the same time a large number of our students across the country are unable to obtain stationery, shoes, and clothing for the New Year's holidays. Therefore, we, a number of Majles deputies, are asking your excellency to issue a firm order to the organizations under the mantle of the government to refrain from pointless expenditures of this kind and to spend the money instead to procure essentials for needy students (for your information the report published in RESALAT on 12/3/1372 [22 February 1994] is enclosed).

27 Feb

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28 Feb 94 pp 5, 6

[All figures as published]

[Text] **Legislative and Parliamentary Affairs Division.**

The Majles held an open session yesterday with Mr. 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri presiding, and the deputies of the Jewish religious minority and the cities of Kashmar, Kohnuj, Ramhormoz, and Zarand of Kerman made preagenda speeches condemning the recent crimes of the Zionist regime. The speaker of the Majles also condemned the Zionist crime of killing the Palestinian worshippers. The Majles then went into session. We call to the attention of our honorable readers the details of the discussions.

Statements of the Speaker of the Majles

In today's open session of the Majles, condemning the grave and unprecedented crimes of the Zionist regime in killing the Palestinian worshippers in the court of his holiness Ebrahim, Mr. Nateq-Nuri emphasized: One should stand up and fight against force; justice will eventually be victorious. The divine maxim is that justice will achieve victory. We believe that one must not retreat in the face of the oppressor. In fighting oppression, one should not speak of discussions, negotiations, relations, and peace. The nature of domination is to dominate. This is also true of the United States, which is the most criminal of all.

He then addressed the leaders of the Islamic governments and said: Whenever there is one step in retreat in the face of criminals, the enemy takes a step forward. If 'Arafat and his agents had not accepted the disgraceful Gaza and Jericho Treaty, we would not have witnessed such a crime.

The speaker of the Majles also added: Unfortunately, these criminals did not even act and will not act in good faith on the basis of this disgraceful agreement. Then, the trade leaders who claim to be the leaders of Palestinians and the PLO and other organizations sell the honor and

dignity of the people of this land, and then the treaty will not have any results but crimes and treason. Today, while U.S. propaganda and U.S. talk of peace is heard in the Middle East, why do you think that such horrible crimes are committed? The Islamic countries, their leaders, and the Muslims should not be deceived by the foolish and deceptive explanations of the Zionists, who claim that this crime was committed by a few extremist Jews or soldiers with psychological problems. This is not true. For anyone to accept that a few extremist Jews did it and the Israeli Army and the United States had no hand in it would be extremely naive. This was certainly preplanned.

Mr. Nateq-Nuri also added: Although usurping Israel does not see an organized army of Arabs before its eyes, it does see before its eyes a strong, aggressive, and brave wave of people, which has been formed there as a result of the Islamic revolution of Iran and our movement. We see the horizon as bright, and in the near future they will see the fruits of their movement. Hence, the rooted resistance of the Palestinians and the children of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] cannot be endured by the United States and Israel. I believe that this crime is the start of a new treacherous and oppressive movement toward ethnic cleansing and destroying the resistance of the people in occupied Palestine at the hands of the Israelis.

The speaker of the Majles considered this Zionist action in conformity with the ethnic cleansing of Muslims in Bosnia and Herzegovina by Serbs and said: The fact that the world is silent with regard to these crimes can be endured. What is important is that these crimes are neither the first nor the last. But what must be underscored is how the champions of human rights are silent with regard to such a crime. The human rights (organization), which sends its mercenary agent Galindo Pohl to Iran and quotes the reports of the Hypocrites and condemns Iran for having a prison or mistreating a Baha'i or changing the Baha'i cemetery in Tehran into a green area, those who profess their concern for human rights, think about this and spend so much to say: Why did you do such-and-such? However, in regards to such crimes, neither the United Nations nor the supporters of human rights raise their voices. Their silence in regards to these crimes is like their silence in regards to the Serbs. Of course, in a sense, the more of these crimes that occur, the more the waves in the occupied lands and in Bosnia and Herzegovina will increase; and the waves and blood, God willing, will dislodge usurping Israel, the United States, and their other supporters and increase the motivation to fight in the children of Palestine and in non-Palestinians.

It should be mentioned that after the speech of the speaker of the Majles, the shouts of "Death to Israel" resonated in the Majles.

Mohammad Reza Khabbaz, Deputy From Kashmar

The first preagenda speaker was Khabbaz from Kashmar, who offered his congratulations on the anniversary of the birthday of Imam Hasan and, condemning the actions of criminal Israel on the previous bloody Friday, he thanked the people, the officials, and the deputies of the Majles for their presence at the funeral ceremonies of Hojjat ol-Eslam Qoddusi, the representative of the great leader in the Science and Industry University.

Stating that our revolution is based on three foundations of ideology, leadership, and the people, he said: Unity between these sacred foundations has so far brought us the great blessing of independence, freedom, and the Islamic Republic; and the continuation of these blessings and the ability to reach the peak of spiritual and material progress are possible under the auspices of the unity of these three divine gifts. God forbid that any harm should come to any of these three foundations, which would affect the other two. He added: It is our duty to make every effort to preserve these three virtuous elements and not allow certain economic pressures to befall our benefactors, that is, the people who have given martyrs.

The deputy from Kashmar then pointed out: One of the issues that causes the people to suffer is the uncontrolled and irrational inflation that puts pressure on the oppressed in our Islamic society. Even though the serving government has taken long strides toward the self-sufficiency of the country, the speed of economic modification is very rapid, and the oppressed in the society cannot endure these modifications.

He added: The elimination of subsidies is not in our interests at all. I, therefore, request that the government slow down the speed of economic modification. Otherwise, the weak people will not reach the desired destiny. Also, measures to prevent chaos in the market must be introduced as soon as possible. Who is responsible for prices? Do you know of any place in the world where there are no controls over or awareness of the price of goods offered to the people? In less than one week we have witnessed an increase in the price of meat of 100 tumans, and there is no one to answer for it. In a few months, the rate of foreign currency has gone from 160 tumans to 240 tumans, and no organization takes responsibility, and the violators are not dealt with decisively.

Khabbaz emphasized: Is the need to control prices not felt in the Islamic society? The greatest pressure is on that class of people with fixed incomes, such as employees, and those with low-level jobs. For example, until a few months ago, with the 160-toman dollar, the salary of an employee earning 15,000 tumans a month would be worth $93, but today he can only buy about $62 worth of goods with the same salary. In other words, not only have the salaries of employees not increased in proportion to inflation in terms of cash or material, but they also have decreased by about 30 percent. Instead, a small number of people in society who neither support the revolution nor have faith in the progress of the country, those whose God is money, have gained astronomical wealth with this windfall money. How long must these leeches suck the blood of the people of this

country who have offered martyrs? We, therefore, ask the Ministry of Commerce to put the supervision and control of prices at the top of its agenda, to provide the grounds for nonoil exports, and to eliminate the obstacles to the export of nonoil products in order for the economy of the country to be cut loose from the umbilical cord of oil. Second, why do some economic terrorists still evade taxes 16 years after the victory of the revolution? Why, after identification, are the just taxes on their unimaginable wealth not collected? As a result, the weak worker and small business owner must pay for them. The deputy from Kashmar asked the government to treat these individuals in such a way as to make up for the past and to take their debts of several years from them, even by force, and render them to the Treasury.

The speaker termed the uncontrolled population increase one of the important economic problems of the country and said: We ask the government to confront this deadly phenomenon with proper and serious programs and guidance. Even though since the Islamic revolution the government has rendered a great deal of service even to the dear villagers, and despite the economic embargo, the imposed war, and the destroyed country inherited from the cruel monarchical regime, the government has been able to implement several times the number of developmental projects of the past in the most remote areas of the country to eliminate the problems of the country. In conclusion, he asked the minister of roads and transport to give priority to the strategic Borsekan-Sabzevar road and mentioned to the minister of petroleum the implementation of the Kashmar natural gas project next year.

Kuros Keyvani, Deputy of the Jewish Minority

The deputy of the Jews condemned the horrible crimes of the Zionist regime in al-Khalil.

The next speaker was Keyvani, the deputy of the Jewish minority, who spoke briefly and said: Since several thousand years ago, when his holiness Abraham bought a cave in the area of al-Khalil in which to bury his wife and it later became the tomb of his holiness Abraham as well as Isaac and Jacob, this place has been the most sacred place of pilgrimage for Jews. The Association of Iranian Jews strongly condemns this barbaric crime and the massacre of the fasting, defenseless worshippers.

He continued: Especially given that all monotheists believe that eventually the existence of a single faith and common beliefs will result in peace and sincerity, this horrible crime and the disrespect shown for this sacred place are intolerable, and the perpetrators of this crime deserve curses and damnation. Certainly, the Government of Israel, which according to international agreements is responsible for the security and safety of the occupied lands and for preserving respect for this sacred place and its worshippers, has a grave responsibility in this tragedy. Keyvani continued: The Society of Iranian Jews demands that all the necessary investigations be carried out thoroughly and impartially in order that the perpetrators of this crime be punished. On behalf of the Society of Iranian Jews, in the wake of this tragedy, I offer my condolences to the grand leader, the families of the martyrs, the oppressed people of Palestine, our beloved compatriots, and the whole of humanity.

Gholamreza Mo'tamedinia, Deputy From Kohnuj

The next speaker was Mo'tamedinia from Kohnuj, who offered his congratulations on the birthday of Imam Hasan Mojtaba and condolences for the martyrdom of the oppressed Palestinian worshippers. He continued: Since the victory of the Islamic revolution, the global oppressors headed by the Great Satan have not for a moment stopped their hostility against Islam and the revolution and have fought the revolution and Islam openly and secretly.

The speaker continued: By the grace of God and with the prophet-like guidance of the late Imam and the great leader, our regime continues rapidly on its path, and with each day the despair and hopelessness of the oppressors increases. The enemy accuses us of supporting terrorism. Perhaps the people of the world know how we and our nation have suffered at the hands of the terrorists who are protected by the oppressors. The best children of this land were assassinated at the hands of the same terrorists who continue their disgraceful life under the auspices of the oppressors.

In continuation, the speaker added: The hypocrite minigroup that is today accepted and protected in the official and nonofficial circles of the Europeans and Americans has martyred many Friday imams in prayer niches and placed bombs in public places. Why do they allow them in their countries, listen to their lies, and support them?

Stating that the false claimers of antiterrorist sentiments are themselves terrorists and nurture terrorists, he said: The human rights that we are accused of violating have been violated more than everyone else and before everyone else by the oppressors. Nowhere in the world and in no international legal system is respect for the rights of humanity as strong as in Islam and the sacred Islamic regime.

Mo'tamedinia continued: The Islamic legal system that is practiced in our country today is the most perfected of all legal systems in the world.

Then, in connection with the valuable services of the government in the 15 years of the revolution, given the tricks of the oppressors, the deputy of Kohnuj said: (The government) has gained great success in the area of development and fundamental work. To be fair, no one can accuse the government of not having worked hard. If at times some people make despairing statements, they are either ill-intentioned or uninformed. We have a duty to inform the people of the work of the government, but we must also mention the flaws.

In connection with the uncontrolled high prices that worry the people to a degree, the speaker said: While the

government must pay special attention to the vulnerable and low-income strata in the society, I suggest that the government fix the prices of goods and services as soon as possible and carefully supervise them in order to achieve trade based on proper and just Islamic rules.

Mohammad Reza Bahmani, Deputy From Ramhormoz

Disrespect for the sacred beliefs of Muslims is an unforgivable sin, and Muslims must not simply overlook it.

As another preagenda speaker, Bahmani, the deputy from Ramhormoz, strongly condemned the barbaric crime of the Zionists in the shrine of Abraham and said: Will the rulers of some Islamic countries relinquish friendship and support for the enemies of Islam? Past experience has shown, and this time will be no different, that all the constituents of the oppressors and the Great Satan will overlook the events.

He added: The United Nations and the Security Council, too, will merely condemn the action and will not punish the perpetrator or perpetrators. Based on the Geneva Convention, the security of the residents of the occupied land is the duty of the occupiers, and the Zionist regime must accept the responsibility for this crime. The regime occupying Jerusalem, by compromising with 'Arafat, has targeted all of Islam. Disrespect for the sacred beliefs of Muslims is an unforgivable sin, and Muslims must not simply overlook it.

He added: Muslims must by thoroughly understanding the tragedy and display a calculated reaction, because the West has made its choice between the Islamic world and the Zionist regime for years, and naturally the Islamic world must also make its serious choice.

He referred to the services of the Islamic Republic in the area of fundamental investments and said: Despite the population growth and the decrease in the price of oil, the country has been able to continue its services. Nevertheless, in terms of devising a budget and plan, it appears to have problems that should be mentioned. The operation of the First Five-Year Plan, in accordance with the ratification of the Majles, was supposed to have been presented to the Majles by the government, which unfortunately was not done. In many interviews there is constant talk of growth above and beyond the expectations of the Plan, sometimes up to 300 percent, yet there is no talk of the shortcomings and backwardness.

In regards to the annual budget, he said: Note 29 of the national budget is a note that every year deals with foreign currency issues. The content of this note, even though it strongly effects the economy, is rarely evaluated carefully in order that the deputies understand how the system has been working.

For example, the 1373 [21 March 1994-20 March 1995] budget states that the Central Bank must operate so as to ensure that at the end of 1372 [20 March 1994], the total obligations resulting from the operations of the current account does not increase in proportion to the investment account of the previous years and the foreign currency reserves at the end of 1372 are less than the foreign currency reserves at the beginning of that year. Hence, the foreign currency policies in 1372 [21 March 1993-20 March 1994] must have two characteristics from a budgetary point of view.

A) The foreign currency obligations of the country should not have increased compared to those at the end of 1371 [20 March 1993].

B) The foreign currency reserves of the country at the end of 1372 should not be less than the year's figure. [sentence as published]

The deputy of Ramhormoz then emphasized: Why have Paragraph A and B, which were mentioned, not been achieved? Why has the rial been devalued so much?

In practice, how did some amounts, which were earmarked for accounting, actually aid the budgetary accounting? How do we evaluate the operation of the sale of foreign currency in 1372? How did the committee cited in Note 22, Paragraph A, Part 3, operate? How much of the foreign currency purchases of the country have been converted into rial purchases? Why is the rate of foreign currency in the 1373 budget lower than the rate of the dollar in the official markets? If the rate of the dollar in 1373 is anticipated to decrease, we must note that at the present time, the rate of the dollar on the open market is higher than the floating rate.

The speaker continued: The 1373 budget must reduce the likelihood of new crises. Also, the budget cannot be economically justified. Hence, the inflation rate projected in this budget must be stated. To what level will it bring the cash flow? How will it regulate the gross national product?

He then said in regards to the management of heavy industries and mines and metals: These days, the people are witnessing the serious increase in the number of vehicles in the country. The Ministry of Heavy Industries, which enjoys such significant legal privileges as tax exemption, must saturate the consumer market through increased production and lower prices. Not only has it played no role in lowering prices but it has been an important factor in increasing prices.

Before the ratification of the law on accounting and the collection of customs duties and commercial taxes and taxes on various kinds of vehicles and road building equipment and the manufacture of their parts on 02/10/1371 [23 December 1992], the implementation of which on 27/11/1372 [16 February 1994] on all domestically produced and imported vehicles with consideration for the laws at the time and the legal codes of the budget of the years prior to 1372, some amounts were collected as taxes on imported and domestic vehicles and other taxes and deposited in France. The difference in these amounts in 1371 [21 March 1992-20 March 1993] was about 3.7 billion rials [R] and in 1372, R170.5

billion. For example, prior to the implementation of the 1371 tax law, the Peugeot-405 GL was R19 million on open sale, and the tax paid was R5 million. After the implementation of the tax policy, this figure decreased to R800,000, but the price of the car increased to R30 million.

'Ali Motahhari, Deputy From Zarand of Kerman

The last preagenda speaker of the open session of the Majles yesterday was Motahhari from Zarand of Kerman, who offered his condolences and condemned the Zionist crime of the slaughter of the Palestinian worshippers in the city of al-Khalil, asking for the widespread participation of the people in the march on Jerusalem Day.

Stating that our revolution is a revolution of values, the speaker continued: If in a regime liberal ideology has abstract concepts such as the relationship of the people with their deputies, the deputies with the parliament, the government with the executive and judicial branches, and the like, these are alienated relationships, because in such systems the relationship of all sectors with the parliament, especially the relationship of the people with their parliament, is limited, noninclusive, and nondynamic. However, with the blessing of the Islamic revolution, our Majles has found an exalted place, as the first manifestation of the ideals of the people and the embodiment of the virtues of the nation.

Continuing, in connection with the Majles, Motahhari said: The great founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran presented the Majles as the true house of the nation and the result of the calls of "God is great" by the people. The grand leader of the revolution also said that the Majles, in the true sense of the word, is the manifestation of the will and rule of the people.

If we accept that the Majles truly holds such a position in the whole regime, then how can a brother who up to a few days ago was the governor of Kerman make such unjust remarks about the position and status of the Majles?

In this connection, I ask for permission to inform the deputies of a few points.

1) He says that one of the deficiencies of our Constitution is that the government and the Majles do not have comparable importance. While the Majles can impeach the government, the government must also be given the right to dissolve the Majles. Indeed, has the time not come for this dear brother, even for one time, to carefully study the foundation of the regime and note that our sacred regime gets its legitimacy and the guarantee of the rule of God from the absolute rule of religious guardianship and the guarantee of the rule of the people in current affairs from the people. Therefore, when there are strong reasons for the eternal power of the regime, there is no room for the simpleminded.

2) He said that according to our Constitution we have given the central position to the Majles, that this deficiency has become evident and in several years may be corrected.

The question is whether he has noticed that the balance of power, the distinguished position of the leader, and relations between the branches are based upon the ideals of the Islamic revolution and the approval of the nation and the people in form of the Constitution. Contrary to his opinion, I must emphasize that, thank God, the relationship between the three branches in our sacred regime is based on the guarantee of achieving the goals of the revolution and the ideals of the people, with the thoughtful and remarkable direction of the Imam.

3) He says that our problem in the first years of the victory of the revolution was that we thought management meant company, or somewhere else he says, it is an erroneous tradition for every group that gains a majority in the Majles to put pressure on the executive system. Of course, perhaps if the majority existing in the Majles were that that he wished it to be, applying pressure would be no problem, according to him. It is perhaps for this reason that he tolerated the problem in the past.

In continuation, he said: What has to be said here is an expression of sorrow that he does not note that the deputies are the voice of their constituency and are considered the eyes and ears of the regime. Why should an executive official in our sacred regime not appreciate ponderous words from the mouth of the people and not pay attention to the eyes and ears? Is it not that the continuation of support and efforts of millions of people and the strength of this sacred regime is due to the respect that this regime places on the votes and words of the Muslim nation? Is it an unpleasant thing for this solidarity between the wishes of the people and those of the executive officials to exist? If they take a step for the people, do these officials not want to them to participate willingly in their destiny in the cities and villages? Is it better to choose unacceptable governors and officials with questionable reputations to run the affairs? If the law has given you the authority to select the governors, do you not want to make use of this authority to get better results, to carry out reforms, and to satisfy the people? Has the history of certain actions not clearly proved that it is not in the interest of our revolution to condemn and question anyone who does not agree with our personal and factional views and tastes, and to justify pressures?

The deputy of Zarand of Kerman also added: I hope that his honor, who was ultimately honored to serve alongside the distinguished personality of the revolution, the trustworthy captain of the executive ship of the country, the beloved president of the Islamic nation, God willing, will be the source of useful and effective service in the future, and such judgments and tendencies in him will end.

Motahhari then said: Yesterday, we were informed that a group of directors general of the offices of the province came as a group to Tehran. As the deputy of the people,

I request of the related ministers sincerely that they ask their directors about the motive behind their trip in this situation and in the blessed month of Ramazan. Was this a personal or political trip? And, from what source were the expenditures of the trip provided?

In conclusion, he said: I request of the honorable minister of interior and pioneering revolutionary that in order to put the minds of the brave and patient people of Kerman at ease and make them content, the necessary care be taken in appointing new governors, and that it be noted that these people are the capital of this regime and the benefactors of all of us.

Ratifications The Majles rejected the attachment of the National Grain Organization to the Ministry of Agriculture.

The Proposal To Separate the Grain Organization From the Ministry of Commerce

The first item on the agenda of the open session of the Majles was the continuation of the examination of the first round of discussions of the Administrative and Employment Affairs Committee concerning the rejection of the proposal to separate the National Grain Organization from the Ministry of Commerce and attach it to the Ministry of Agriculture, the general points of which were not ratified and were rejected.

Among the reasons for the rejection by the above-mentioned committee:

A) From the viewpoint of the bylaws and the goals establishing it, considering that the goal in establishing this organization [was]:

1) Provisions (purchasing surplus products of the producers of domestic grain, if necessary, from abroad).
2) Storage.
3) Distribution.
4) Regulating the grain market.
5) Commercial, industrial, research activities and related services.

The above-mentioned activities are mainly in connection with the ratified duties of the Ministry of Commerce. Even though an insignificant percentage may be related to the Ministry of Agriculture, which is natural and essentially inherent in the organization's goals and duties, a percentage is related to other organizations.

B) In terms of governing policies:

Because grains are a strategic commodity, and in the past 60 years, due to their grave significance, attention has been paid to them, and during the periods when they were in the agricultural or cooperative and rural affairs branches, they did not have a significant return, inevitably, in 1352 [21 March 1973-20 March 1974] they were attached to the Ministry of Commerce. In the past 20 years, thank God, despite the war and internal crises, grains have had no critical problems, and since the revolution we have witnessed the relative increase in production of wheat and other grains. During the times when they were dependent on other ministries, due to incompetence, they frequently caused the fall of governments.

C) In terms of organization:

It seems that, as it has been decided that the general organization of the country should be reviewed, the discussion on the separation and attachment of an organization or an institution to some ministry would not be logical or worthy of the Majles, because it would waste the precious time of the honorable deputies on details. If the management of an organization acts weakly, the organization cannot be dissolved or moved. The operation of the organization must be examined, and the reason for the weakness must be found. These moves not only do not solve any problem but also add to the problems. There are many organizations, such as the Grains Organization, which, if we only look at the production aspect, we must move. Production [should be] in its own place and purchasing and distribution in their own place.

The continuation of the committee report states: Now that the honorable minister of commerce has recently received a vote of confidence, it is not expedient to daily raise the issue of separating an organization from the Ministry of Commerce. Let us see its operation in the future and engage in such actions.

Bill on the Establishment of the Supreme Council of Traffic Coordination of the Cities of the Country

The next item on the agenda was the amendment by the Councils and Internal Affairs Committee regarding the bill on the establishment of the Supreme Council of Traffic Coordination of the cities of the country (returned from the Council of Guardians), which was ratified by the Majles.

The text of the amendment of Article 1 by the committee:

Article 1: In order to implement comprehensive and coordinated traffic policies and to improve the management of all affairs related to the issue of traffic, such as the design, planning, organization, coordination, guidance, supervision, and control of traffic in the cities, the Supreme Council of Traffic Coordination of the counties of the country, which will be called from here on the Supreme Council, shall be comprised of the following members:

1) The deputy minister of interior (president of the council);

2) The deputy of roads and transport;

3) the deputy minister of housing;

4) the deputy minister of post, telegraph and telephone;

5) the deputy director of the Plan and Budget Organization;

6) the director of the Environmental Protection Organization or his deputy;

7) the commander of the law enforcement forces or his deputy.

The ratifications of this council shall be mandatory for implementation, upon the approval of the minister of interior.

Amendment to Article 4

Article 4. The ratifications of the Supreme Council of Traffic Coordination of the cities of the country, which must be within the framework of the laws and regulations of the country, are mandatory for implementation for all ministries, establishments, government organizations, institutes, and public and private establishments.

Proposal To Amend the Registration Law

The last item on the agenda was the urgent report of the Judicial Committee concerning the proposal to amend Articles 16 and 20 of the law of the country on documents and property registration, of which the general points were ratified. The examination of its details was postponed to the next session.

It is noteworthy that Article 16 specifies the procedures for application for registration and protests against it, and Article 20 discusses the procedures for protest to the property boundaries, for which an application has been registered and submitted.

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[Text] **Legislative and Parliamentary Affairs Division.**

The Majles held an open session yesterday with Dr. Ruhani presiding, and the deputies of the cities of Mahneshan, Takestan, Damghan, and Dorud and Azna made preagenda speeches. Then in a brief speech the deputy speaker of the Majles condemned the crime of the Zionists in slaughtering the Palestinian worshippers. Then the Majles went into session. We call to the honorable readers' attention the details of discussions.

Statements of the Deputy Speaker of the Majles

In the open session of the Majles yesterday, Dr. Hasan Ruhani offered his condolences on the anniversary of the day that the Commander of the Faithful, 'Ali, was struck and then said: The striking of the Commander of the Faithful proved this bitter truth, that heathenism and hypocrisy have no logic but the sword, assassination, and oppression and that this weapon has always been used against justice, truth, free human beings, and the oppressed. Unfortunately, after the passage of centuries, today as well, hypocrisy and heathenism speak to us in the language of slaughter, terrorism, aggression, and oppression. The heinous and barbaric incident in the al-Khalil Mosque in the shrine of his holiness Abraham, and for that matter during the month of Ramazan, during the morning prayers, once again repeated the incident of the Kufeh Mosque. This time, however, not at the hands of one person but at the hands of a usurping, aggressive, and oppressive regime, which in order to carry out its treacherous and hypocritical plan in the region created this tragedy. Despite the empty claims and deceptive and hollow lies of the United States and Israel concerning the issue of "peace and wanting peace" and their readiness to stop aggression and oppression in the region, this shocking incident proved the point for everyone, even the simple-minded, that the Zionists are the same terrorists of yesterday, that no change has taken place in their nature, that they understand no language but bullets, and that there is no way to restore the rights of the Palestinians and liberating Jerusalem except through holy war and the unity of Muslims. As one of the main responsible elements in this crime and tragedy, Washington is neither able nor willing to solve the problem in the region. Solving the Palestinian issue is only possible at the hands of Muslims through unity and holy war. We hope that in these days of the blessed month of Ramazan, especially the sacred days and nights of Qadr and the days of guardianship and the imamate, we will be able to make the most spiritual use of these sacred days and nights and pray for all the Muslims in the world, particularly the oppressed people of Palestine and Bosnia and other oppressed people.

Reza 'Abdollahi, Deputy From Mahneshan

The first preagenda speaker of the open session of the Majles yesterday was 'Abdollahi from Mahneshan, who referred to the striking of his holiness 'Ali on 19 Ramazan and said: On 21 Ramazan, with the martyrdom of 'Ali, the history of Islam and humanity changed, and as it advanced, with the coming to power of oppressive governments, deviation from Islamic principles and injunctions increased.

He added: In this age, the offspring of ebn-e Moljam kill the fasting worshippers during Friday prayers in the al-Khalil Mosque, the racist Serbs engage in Muslim genocide in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and the governments that support human rights endorse these crimes.

Pointing out that the people of Iran will certainly hold the Jerusalem Day ceremonies more magnificently, he said: Now that the blessed Islamic Republic is 15 years old, I shall speak of certain issues. To solve the problem of high prices, it seems that in addition to the training and employing of strong managers who are familiar with economic, social, and political issues, this fact must be

admitted, that fighting high prices is dependent on increased production and more supply than demand. This is possible in one of two ways:

Increase in supply or decrease in demand.

He added: In order to increase production, we need investment, whereas we face limitations of capital and investment, and some investments exceed the expectations of the country and the people. The better way is to decrease expenditures, make the best use of resources and investments, and decrease consumption, which requires experienced, concerned, and brave managers who have the national interests at heart. If such a culture is formed in our society, we shall be certain that our revenues will increase every day, and more just distribution, wiser use of resources, and more reasonable consumption will reduce high prices and inflation.

The speaker continued: If the Majles, the government, and the people decide to reduce in 1373 [21 March 1994-20 March 1995] only 10 percent of the uncontrolled consumption of oil products compared to 1372 [21 March 1993-20 March 1994], with the $1,898,000,000 in savings in this way, we shall be able to provide medicine and essential goods for all the people as well as employment, marriage, and housing for the young easily and at low cost. If the uncontrolled consumption continues, in 1377 [21 March 1998-20 March 1999] our domestic consumption will reach 3,295,000 barrels of oil per day. With such consumption, from 1373 to 1377, we must build at least $17.5 billion worth of new refineries or import $24 billion in products. Most important, in 1377, the level of our exports on the basis of daily production and consumption will reach 700,000 barrels, whereas our exports this year have been 2.7 million barrels, with a population of about 60 million people. In other words, the per capita annual export of oil will decrease from 10 barrels in 1372 to four barrels in 1377.

Then, to decrease oil consumption, he suggested: Attention must be paid to observing sound scientific principles in planning, reforming the administrative structure, reducing red tape for the people, making transportation networks more efficient, constructing buildings using technical methods, and preventing the production and entry of vehicles requiring high gas consumption. In addition to this plan, cash subsidies should be given on all essential goods and products for all the people, the per capita expenditures of which should be based on the rate of inflation, and prices should be made to be realistic, based on actual cost or the payment of coupons to provide for the urgent needs of the people.

In continuation, 'Abdollahi emphasized: In order to prevent inflation and high prices, calculated and expedient investments must be made. For this purpose, it is necessary to prepare and make available the chart of payments and collections as soon as possible. One important management skill is to best allocate resources at a time when investments are limited.

In order to prevent inflation and price increases, the logical and acceptable price of all services and goods, especially the products of government organizations and companies, must be determined by experienced experts. We must accept that the time of disregard for the quality of management has passed, and we must not allow consumers to pay exorbitant prices for goods and services because of weak and incompetent management.

For example, the minister of post, telegraph and telephone has often announced that one telephone line costs about $2,000 in foreign currency, and recently in examining the 1373 budget revenues in the Planning and Budget Committee, he repeated this and announced that 60-70 percent of the foreign currency costs of every telephone line involves cables. However, one cable, which includes about 100,000 telephone lines, at the highest purchase price of the Communications Company, according to the officials of that company, was purchased for $20 million. The foreign currency for the cable amounts to $200 per telephone line.

If 60 percent is $200, 100 percent is $333 at the highest purchase price. At the maximum leeway for foreign currency use, every telephone comes to $500. Now, where does the $2,000 come from when, as the minister knows, expert evaluation indicates it should cost $500?

When we procure the same cable from Shahid Qandi Factory, the cost will be $60. Now, if we are to distribute the 5 million telephone lines in the Second Plan at prices several times higher, the difference between the actual price and the high price imposed on the people is about $7.5 billion.

He explained: If the prices become accurate, certainly weak and incapable people who are unable to offer goods of high quality at an appropriate price will be dismissed and strong and competent people will come to the scene. We must break the monopolies and monopolized prices by creating competitors for the monopolists and allow the private sector, at least by moving a few letters and establishing a few quality telephone lines and other services, to break the prices.

Stating that in order to prevent inflation we must try to reduce the rate of population growth, he said: As has been estimated, the population of the country in 1377 will reach 67.5 million. For every person in the population on the way and future guests, we will need to spend at least $1,600 to provide food, clothing, etc.

Rajab Rahmani, Deputy From Takestan

The second preagenda speaker was Rahmani the deputy from Takestan, who referred to the slaughter of the Palestinian worshippers by the Zionist regime, which is supported by the United States, and pointed out that they must be dealt with only with the language of weapons and reliance on the weapon of faith.

In continuation, he added: The traitors who have committed treason against the ideals of the oppressed people

of Palestine and those who have submitted to the Gaza-Jericho plan should have realized this truth a long time ago. It is most unfortunate that the legal and international circles, the United Nations, and the Security Council simply overlook these crimes and under the pressure of the United States have continuously held a double standard in such cases.

Then, in connection with the Second Five-Year Plan, the speaker said: By establishing expert groups and committed experts, the Majles must work on the plan. The plan shows the social awareness of the people and the officials. Social awareness and conscience and the role of the people must be taken into consideration in designing and devising, and after the plan is adapted to the frameworks and policies determined by the grand leader, who is the divine mountain of dignity and the divine correct path, they should be implemented.

Also, in continuation, pointing out that despite the conspiracies of the enemy, the government has been successful in the First Plan, he asked the government to join forces with the people to take basic steps in harnessing unbridled inflation and high prices, supporting the vulnerable strata, stabilizing prices, and fighting economic terrorists.

Thanking the president in regards to eliminating the problems and impediments involved in dried goods, including raisins, by issuing appropriate instructions, which have been implemented to a great extent, the speaker continued: Considering the frequent requests of the people and the fruit growers of the province of Zanjan, which were made during his visit to Takestan and that of the officials, we ask the president to establish a grape and apple juice concentrate unit in this city as one of the national projects of the conversion industries. Most unfortunately, out of the millions of dollars in foreign currency in Note 27 of the 1369 [21 March 1990-20 March 1991] budget bill, not only has not one dollar been spent on this project, but with the negligence and disruptive actions of the concerned officials, including the officials of the Agricultural and Mellat Banks, the people and the government will suffer irreparable damage.

The deputy from Takestan also thanked Mr. Yazdi, the head of the Judicial Branch, and said in continuation: As was stated to his honor in the meeting on Saturday, 07/12/1372 [26 February 1993], we ask his honor to issue a decisive order to the judicial officials and send a special representative to the city of Takestan in order to resolve the nine-year problems of the people concerning the land disputes of the farmers with the forestry and urban land and also to notify the National Document Registration [Office] to take steps in accordance with the vote of the Investigating Committee concerning the disputed lands cited in Article 56 in regards to the issuance of deeds in the name of the farmers.

He also asked the minister of energy to take urgent steps concerning the shortage of agricultural water and added in this regard: Considering the prohibition on digging deep wells and the very high drop in the underground water level and the decrease in the amount of water in existing deep wells, more than 3,000 hectares of agricultural land and vineyards are about to be destroyed, and it is not clear who should respond to the fruit growers.

He asked the minister of health and the head of the Social Security Organization to pay special attention to the city of Takestan and its problems and to find solutions to start the operation and equipping of the 96-bed sole hospital in this area.

The deputy from Takestan continued: I ask the minister of agriculture to take serious steps in regards to insuring the agricultural products and vineyards, which is requested by a large number of honorable deputies of the grape growing regions.

Considering that one of the necessities of the region is a center for research on the orchards; despite the dominant products in the region and the existence of Takestan as a production area, the country lacks a research center.

He also made a reminder to the interior minister concerning the annexation of villages 15-20 km from this city.

Concluing, he asked the Muslim and martyr-nurturing nation to respond positively to the call of the grand leader and, through their million-large presence in the march on International Jerusalem Day, to pledge once again their unity with the oppressed martyrs and the people of Palestine and Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Abolfazl Hasan-Beygi, Deputy From Damghan

The next speaker was Hasan-Beygi from Damghan, who wished victory for all servants of the sacred Islamic regime and heathen-fighting combatants throughout the Islamic world and destruction for the Zionist enemy and global oppressors from the East to the West and said: Sometimes one hears and sees and hears from the statements and pens of informed and uninformed people unjust, incorrect, and unfair judgments. They say that the sacred Islamic regime of Iran is not only helpless in running the country but also even ordinary matters, or, affected by destructive foreign and domestic elements, they follow an incorrect path, distancing themselves from the foundation of guidance on the basis of divine injunctions. It is most unfortunate for such ideas to spread.

In continuation, he said: The sworn enemies in the East and West criticize our nation and country with such self-righteous posturing. Without reference to history and examining the present countries in the world, one can easily be affected by this. This country, until the victory of the revolution, with a population of less than 35 million people and $26 billion in revenues annually, was living in utter poverty, misery, and dependence. The breed of farmers and farming was about to disappear, and with the spread of the corruption and debauchery of

the offensive Western culture, the end of the human dignity and Islamic principles of our people was in sight.

Pointing out that Iran is the mecca of the wishes and ideals of the oppressed of the world, he said: They know well that the country of the Imam of the Age has gained access to a strong economic power and know that they can never place us under colonial domination, like other Islamic countries. That is why they are always thinking of tricks and treason and, by spreading lies and baseless rumors, trying to deceive our alert people. I say strongly that Iran is proud in this wide world. The Iranian nation is proud, and we are standing completely behind the guardian of the Muslims and are hopeful for the day that justice will govern the whole world.

The speaker added: Our sincere people remember that until 1357 [21 March 1978-20 March 1979], the total amount of asphalt and gravel roads was only 5,500 km. But now this figure amounts to more than 107,000 km, of which 65,000 km are asphalt roads and 42,000 km are gravel roads. Up to 1357, there were about 1 million telephones, and in this short period of time the number has reached 4.5 million, which shows a growth of 395 percent. About the situation of universities and what stratum could make use of universities, but by the grace of God, now in 14 years, that is, up to 1371 [21 March 1992-20 March 1993], 40 agreements in principle to create higher education centers and 20 some cases of medical education centers have been issued. Student numbers have reached from 175,000 in 1357 to 500,000 in 1372.

He continued: The number of dams built would not exceed the fingers on one's hand; but now we have more than 100 large dams and dozens of small dams under construction and study. The Ministry of Petroleum and our National Gas Company were taken away by foreigners for free and hired Iranian people as servants. But today, by the grace of God, the ministry and the complex are operated by concerned and committed experts of our own country. Until the revolution, they had distributed 50,000 gas connections throughout the country. With the blessing of the revolution, in these few short years more than 2 million connections have been distributed. And there are thousands of other examples, which I will not mention due to the shortage of time.

In this connection, Hasanbeigi added: Nevertheless, I see that while all these conspiracies and all this poisonous propaganda exist, while we have received an insignificant amount with regard to this wealthy country to reconstruct the industry and the war-stricken regions, I must say to the dear people of Iran that, at the same time that the so-called country, the United States, is one of the largest debtors in the world, comparative statistics show that the United States in 1991 was $828 billion in debt; Austria, $32 billion; England, $325 billion; Iraq, $146 billion; Germany, $405 billion; Japan, $425 billion; and Iran in 1991, $9 billion; Sweden, $172 billion; and France, $146 billion. Why do our enemies only publicize this insignificant amount of Iranian debt? It is clear that the growth and the future blossoming of our economy has made them upset.

In conclusion, the deputy from Damghan thanked the minister of petroleum in regards to natural gas outreach in Damghan; the minister of energy for water outreach in Damghan and building the Damghan dam; the minister of roads for expediting the Sari-Semnan, Sari-Damghan, and Damghan-Esfahan-Yazd road; and also asked the director of planning and budget to instruct the allocation of developmental funds for Payam-e Nur University.

Jahanshah Saddiq, Deputy From Dorud and Azna

As the last preagenda speaker, Saddiq said: While the Islamic world, mourning the Sire of the Pious, sees that the true owners of Palestine are the target of the bullets of the illegitimate usurpers in the sanctuary of the divine prophet, his holiness Abraham, due to the incompetence of the Islamic governments and their neglecting the directives of the leader of the Islamic revolution in their own home, has the time not come for the children of the intifadah to follow the directives of the grand leader of the revolution and rescue Palestine from the claws of the traitors of Palestine and their enemies?

He added: The enemies of Islam must know that they will be punished with the help and power of God by the unity of Muslims throughout the world, the guidance and leadership of the revered leader, the perpetual presence of the Muslim people of Iran on the scene, and retaliation for the blood of the martyrs of the bloody Friday of Ramazan.

He thanked the people for their presence in the march on 22 Bahman [11 February] and asked them to show a united presence, as in the past, in the Jerusalem Day ceremonies.

The speaker then continued: In the continuation of the examination of the budget bill, it is proper for the deputies to note that in this country there are regions that in the course of the sacred defense were not only not included in the developmental actions but had also offered all they had to the victory of the revolution as a duty. Has the time not come to pay attention to my constituency? In the course of the war, was an important part of the share of the provinces involved directly in the war not spent in other provinces? Is it right, under the present circumstances, for most of the national and provincial funds to be poured into wealthy provinces under the pretext of finishing incomplete projects? Has the time not come for the national planning officials to pay attention to the concerns of the leader of the revolution with regard to the lack of development of the province of Lorestan and declare the province a deprived province? Does agriculture, which is given first priority in the speeches of all the experts of the country, hold its correct position?

Concluding, he made reminders about the problems in his constituency.

Ratifications

Proposal To Determine the Registered Protests That Are Not on Record

The first item on the agenda of the open session of the Majles yesterday was the report on the second round of discussions by the Judicial Committee concerning the proposal to determine the registered protest cases that are not on record or which have been eliminated in the judiciary, of which the single article and note were ratified by the deputies.

Single article. From the date of the ratification of this law, all protests sent by the end of 1360 [20 March 1982] to the related judicial authority on the basis of Articles 16 and 20 of the registration law concerning the principle or boundaries of properties and, for whatever reason, the record of the protest does not exist in the judiciary, are not valid. Only the protestors or their legal representatives, within a maximum period of six months from the date of the mandatory implementation of this law, shall present their protest petitions to the proper court and receive the necessary certificate in this case and submit them to the local office of records where the property is located.

Note 1. Property registration applicants or their legal representatives whose registration request has been protested and the protestor or protestors have not submitted the related certificate to the local registration office within the determined period, may go to the related court, receive the certificate indicating that there has been no previous protest and no new petition has been submitted to the local registration office, and request continuation of registration procedures. The local registration office is responsible to take steps to continue the registration procedures.

Note 2. Protests regarding registration and renewal of the boundaries stated in Articles 16 and 20 of the registration law must be submitted in the form of a petition to the proper judicial authority within one month of the date of submission of the protest.

Note 3. The deadline for the note mentioned in Note 2 of Article 7 of the law to amend Articles 1, 2, and 3 of the amending law and omit some articles from the law of documents and property registration ratified on 31 Tir 1967 [22 July 1988] and the attachment of some articles to it ratified on 21/06/1970 [12 September 1991] shall be extended for another two years from the date of mandatory implementation of this law.

The Result of the Question of Seyqali to the Minister of Agriculture

The second item on the agenda was the report of the Committee on Articles 88 and 90 of the Constitution concerning the question of Mr. Seyqali to the honorable minister of agriculture, which was read by the spokesman of the committee as follows:

After a careful, thorough examination of the documents and the details of the Majles discussions and inviting both sides of the question and to express their views and explanations, the committee announces its opinion as follows: First, the collection of one-half percent of the price of green tea leaves from the tea planters has been based on local agreements and, as admitted by the minister of agriculture, has no legal justification.

Second, based on the illegality of the action and the lack of justification, instructions have been issued that the practice be stopped. Third, after examining the cost of payers, the amount collected by the Tea Organization, which came to 2.6 million tumans, has been returned to the farmers. Noting the above, the committee determined that the answer of the minister of agriculture was satisfactory.

Amendment of the Bill To Build Passenger Terminals

The next item on the agenda was the report by the Committee on Councils and Internal Affairs of the country concerning the bill to amend the legislative bill to build passenger terminals and prohibit intercity passenger vehicles within the city of Tehran, returned from the Council of Guardians, of which the single article and articles were ratified by the deputies as follows.

Single article. The name of the legislative bill to build passenger terminals and prohibit intercity passenger busses in the city of Tehran ratified on 09/02/1359 [29 April 1980] by the Revolution Council of the Islamic Republic of Iran shall be changed, and Articles 2 and 3 and their notes as well as Articles 5 and 6 shall be amended as follows:

Article 2. City Halls shall transfer the pavilions of the city terminals to those passenger companies that have been established as agencies based on the regulations of the Ministry of Roads and Transport in exchange for an appropriate rental fee. Cooperative passenger companies shall be given priority.

Note. The requirement for the transfer of pavilions shall be based on bylaws to be prepared by the Ministries of Interior and Roads and Transport and ratified by the Cabinet. This transfer shall not be subject to the regulations of the law on relations between landlords and tenants and shall not create rental and business rights for those who occupy them or those in charge of them, and whenever the City Hall deems necessary, it can take possession of the location, with the agreement of the Ministry of Roads and Transport, with consideration for the condition of transfer and prior notification of at least two months.

Article 3. The operational management, planning, policy making, and pricing concerning intercity passenger transportation and supervision over the quality of related services offered and responsibilities related to the transport of passengers shall be conferred on the Ministry of Roads and Transport. The ownership and management of the City Hall terminal facilities and the

responsibility for the related services shall be that of the City Hall, and all City Halls shall collect all related taxes and legal fees.

City Halls throughout the country are responsible to make available to the Ministry of Roads and Transport appropriate resources at the location of the terminals.

Article 5. The City Halls of cities throughout the country with populations of over 50,000 are responsible to create intercity passenger terminals at suitable locations based on the content of this law and consideration for the available resources.

Note. The building of passenger terminals by the City Hall shall not prevent the building of terminals by the cooperative or private sectors in accordance with the legal rules and regulations.

Article 6. With the ratification of this law all contrary laws and regulations are nullified, and the implemental bylaws shall be prepared within three months of the date of ratification by the Ministries of Roads and Transport and Interior and ratified by the Cabinet.

Agreement on Road Transportation Between Iran and Russia and Iran and Finland

The fourth and fifth items on the agenda involved the report of the Housing and Urban Development and Roads and Transport Committee concerning the bill on the international road transportation between the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the federative government of Russia and the Republic of Finland.

It is interesting that from Saturday the Majles will hold open sessions in three shifts (morning, noon, and night) and in the second round of discussions will examine the 1373 budget expenditures. Also, today the Majles did not have an open session.

Holding an Exhibition for Direct Sale of Goods in Shahrud

Shahrud. RESALAT Reporter.

The exhibition for direct sale of goods was held for 10 days by the Department of Commerce in Shahrud in that city. In this exhibition, which was held with the cooperation of other departments, household appliances, writing supplies, foodstuff, academic books, and clothing were offered to the people of this region in 15 pavilions.

On the Margins

Bylaws Reminder of Messrs. Naderi and Astaneh

In the open session yesterday, Mr. Naderi the deputy from Bo'in-e Zahra made a bylaws reminder concerning the inquiry and investigation of the Ministry of Mines and Metals.

He said: An inquiry and investigation in connection with the Ministry of Mines and Metals was ratified in the open session on 23/04/1372 [14 July 1993]. On 02/08/1372 [24 October 1993], in a letter to the Board of Directors of the Majles, the honorable chairman of the related committee requested an extension. The honorable speaker of the Majles on 30/11/1372 [19 February 1994] announced to the committee that the time for inquiry and investigation had ended and asked that the report be submitted immediately. On 03/12/1372 [22 February 1994], the honorable chairman of the committee announced to the honorable speaker of the Majles and the Board of Directors that the Inquiry and Investigation Committee had not presented any report to the committee. Considering the articles of the internal bylaws of the Majles, in my opinion, this report cannot be discussed in the Majles and is no longer valid.

After the reminder of Mr. Naderi, Mr. Astaneh also made a reminder based on [Article] 149 of the bylaws that at the present time a large number of inquiry and investigation issues are on the agenda of the Majles, the legal deadlines of which have passed. The inquiry and investigation of the steel company also, like the rest, has taken a long time. The honorable Board of Directors of the Majles should give more time, like in other cases, to the inquiry and investigation of the steel [company]. The report is being prepared. God willing, it will be presented in the near future.

Response of the Ministry of Education to the Issue in "On the Margins"

Following the publication of "On the Margins of the Majles" quoting Dr. Kamran, the deputy of Esfahan, concerning the procedure to spend the budget in Note 55 in connection with cultural invasion on 05/12/1372 [24 February 1994], a response was sent by the training deputy minister of education, which follows:

Respectfully, in reference to the issue in "On the Margins of the Majles" in issue No. 2355 dated 05/12/1372 of that respected newspaper, concerning the statements of one of the honorable deputies of the Majles in regards to the procedures for the spending the budget in Note 55 (countering cultural invasion), please announce the following response in the same column.

Considering the four main issues:

1) about one-third of the population of the country, that is, 17.6 million, are students;

2) the most vulnerable stratum of our society (because of the characteristics of the age of these young people) is students;

3) the most effective and constructive and at the same time the future builders of our society are students;

4) the thrust of the invasion, ambush, and cultural plunder by global oppressors is directed toward the students. Pointing out that, unfortunately, more than 10 percent of the above budget was not allocated to education but, based on the legal and ethical obligations, the whole 10 percent, about 612 million tumans (up to now more than three-fourths of the

budget has not been allocated), was spent in the form of 15 new, often innovative, projects in connection with countering cultural invasion by the training deputy minister of education, as follows:

Line entitled programs and activities and projected funds:

1) Strengthening and implementing the well-known Yaran project, 300 million rials [R];

2) strengthening and estabalishing a relationship between students and masjeds R300 million;

3) establishing porcedures for a debate and criticism group for the youth R300 million;

4) creating video centers (video clubs), R1.5 billion;

5) creating and operating 50 cultural and educational centers in provinces, border areas, and culturally vulnerable areas, R500 million;

6) purchasing books for school libraries throughout the country, R617,260,000;

7) establishing film accommodations in a number of high schools of the new system, R300 million;

8) equipping national camps and holding camps, pilgrimages, and tour visits and travels and field trips, R400 million;

9) operating and equipping Camp No. 3 of Mirza Kuchek Khan in Ramsar, R100 million;

10) establishing mountain climbing and hiking groups composed of students, R200 million;

11) establishing and equipping athletic centers in schools, R300 million;

12) carrying out projects for the establishment of mail, border portable, and subscription libraries for children and youths and completing the libraries of the Center for the Intellectual Development of Children and Youths, R400 million;

13) revitalizing religious education in schools, R400 million;

14) preparing a comprehensive project of national camps, R150 million;

15) carrying out artistic and publicity activities for exceptional (blind, etc.) students, R300 million.

Total, R6,127,260,000.

Respectfully and gratefully, Hoseyn Harati, Training Deputy

4 Apr

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[All figures as published]

[Text] Legislative and Parliamentary Affairs Division. The first open Majles session for the year 1373 [21 March 1994-20 March 1995] was held yesterday, chaired by Mr. 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri, and the deputies from the cities of Hamadan, the Jewish minority, Bahar and Kabudar Ahang, Rasht, and Dorud and Azna gave speeches. Then the speaker of the Majles gave a speech concerning the exalted leader's speech about the work ethic and the social order and also about the injustice of the international organizations, which was printed in the previous issue. We direct the attention of our esteemed readers to the detailed proceedings.

Seyyed Jalal Sadatian, Deputy From Hamadan

The Second Five-Year Plan must be written in such a way that it will make the people more hopeful about the nation's future.

The first preagenda speaker at the open Majles session was Sadatian, deputy from Hamadan. He offered congratulations on the beginning of the new year and the day of the founding of the Islamic Republic of Iran, 12 Farvardin [1 April]. He said: In the year 1372 [21 March 1993-20 March 1994] many important tasks were completed and steps were taken to build Islamic Iran and make it more prosperous. The Majles approved and studied important motions and bills and gave a vote of confidence to Mr. Hashemi's new cabinet. It studied and approved the 1373 budget with a view to the Second Five-Year Plan, and it increased its control and supervision of the government companies.

He then discussed the high and proud role of the Majles. Continuing, he said: The exalted leader emphasized two basic elements, the work ethic and social order, as elements that will build a civilization with reliance on culture, insight, understanding and holistic human thinking, and he gave the good news that our nation is building a civilization.

For reaching this lofty goal, Sadatian mentioned the following points:

1 - Duplicate organizations, inefficient organizations, and organizations that do not work must be eliminated by the Majles, and the real needs of the people for organizations that provide service must be met through necessary elimination and consolidation.

2 - The Second Five-Year Plan must be written in such a way that it provides incentives for the people to work and make effort, and makes them more hopeful about the future.

3 - The Social Security, Social Insurance and Government Services Bill that is on the Majles agenda must be approved in such a way that it serves to develop as much as possible social justice, social incentives, and more public participation in social activities.

4 - To eliminate the negative effects of inflation and prevent the problems caused by high prices, in addition to the things provided in the 1373 budget bill, measures that will control prices and in particular, prevent monopolies, must be implemented.

5 - Discrimination is one of the things that undermine the work ethic and the social order. It is incumbent upon the judicial power to emphasize implementation of the law more than ever. In the same regard the deputy from Hamadan discussed greater cooperation between the government and the Majles in the year 1373. He said: An effort must be begun to encourage more than ever the spirit of mobilization and the spirit of doing a good job throughout this dear country of ours, which is busy with work and activity. For example two or three years ago the management at the Esfahan Iron Foundry was able to bring about a change and strengthen the work ethic in the work environment. In this spirit they were able to carry out a large part of the project.

At the end of his speech he discussed the importance of the role of the people in reconstruction, and he called for greater belief in the people in the reconstruction of the country.

Kuros Kayvani, Deputy From the Jewish Minority

Contrary to the purposeful rumors of the human rights organizations, religious minorities in Iran have every kind of freedom.

The next speaker was Kayvani, deputy from the Jewish minority. He offered congratulations on the new year, and in his speech he discussed the Jewish holidays, which coincide with the New Year celebration. He said: For hundreds of years these holidays have been celebrated with complete tranquility and brotherly coexistence in this wide land of Iran, and they can be an example for the world. All the people of this land have worked and sacrificed their lives to preserve this freedom and solidarity. The minority martyrs are testimony to this claim, and it is confirmed by minority participation in the 10 Days of Dawn Celebration and on God's Day, 12 Farvardin.

The speaker also said: Perhaps a careful study of the free staging of these celebrations by the human rights organizations and societies would prove to them that, contrary to purposeful rumors, religious minorities in Iran have every kind of freedom to practice their religious rites and every kind of facility has been made available to them, including, the right to leave for the soldiers under the flag, government agents, and closing the religious schools on their religious holidays.

Continuing, Kayvani added: The religious minorities have always followed their religious rules in their individual lives and have been free to teach their faith. The Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Iran guarantees this.

He also said: History shows that comparing the Jews in the East for example with those in the Islamic lands and especially Iran, the latter have had greater freedom. If in the West it can be said that after the French revolution and what came from it, the Jews were given the full right to follow their religion and that the doors to cultural institutions were open to them, on the contrary in the Islamic lands and Iran the Jews have had scholars, professors and great artists and have played a part in the nation's destiny. They have even reached high government positions such as prime minister.

He discussed the fact that racism and limiting the rights of minorities and the publication and spread of inappropriate and empty insults are undeniably part of the imperialist political and cultural invasion. He said: A look at the sayings and writings of that great mystic and wise leader who founded the Islamic Republic of Iran will show the extent to which he respected the rights of religious minorities. Even in his political positions he always emphasized that we make a distinction between Jewish society and Zionism.

The speaker continued: As has been said many times, the banner of Islam and the great scholars of Islam and Shiism have always sheltered and protected religious minorities.

Therefore such writings and accusations are far removed from the behavior and actions of the nation of Iran, from the laws and goals of the Islamic revolution and from the Imam's path. The great spirit of Iran and the government of the republic, which is great because of the laws of unity and the legacy of the Imam's teachings, is innocent of these accusations.

'Ali Ya'qubi, Deputy From Bahar and Kabudar Ahang

The triumph of the Muslims of Turkey shows their interest in Islamic culture and their contempt for the culture of the West.

The next speaker was Ya'qubi, deputy from Bahar and Kabudar Ahang. In his speech he offered congratulations on the new year and discussed the slaughter of praying Palestinians by Zionists at Dar al-Khalil last year and the silence of the international organizations. He said: The result of the silence of the international societies and organizations in the face of this savage slaughter and the criminal and compromising approach taken by most of the Western regimes to these crimes will be that we will see a repetition of the al-Khalil tragedy.

Continuing, the speaker also said: Despite extensive propaganda by the Turkish secularists, who have vast propaganda resources at their disposal, the Islamic Rifah Party was victorious in the Turkish mayoral elections,

and I congratulate the Muslims of Turkey on this victory. This shows the awareness of the Muslims and their interest in Islamic culture and government, and their contempt and loathing for the culture of the West and secular governments. It is hoped that in the near future we will see victory by the Muslims of Turkey in the elections for parliament and other political areas.

Ya'qubi then discussed the exalted leader's New Year's message to the people and government leaders, and he asked them to strive to bring this message to fruition.

He then discussed increasing efficiency in the offices. He said: The structure of the administrative system must be revised. The existence of huge organizations with duplicated functions and a complicated bureaucracy will have no result other than to reduce efficiency and leave the public with no place to go. Improving management in the government companies and in the institutions affiliated with the government, and making using of committed and specialist manpower that is concerned about the Islamic revolution in key positions will be effective in improving efficiency.

The speaker then discussed social order and observing order. He said: We must all obey the law. If someone violates the law, he must be dealt with severely. If the laws approved by the Majles are carefully implemented, we will then no longer see the spending of some 6.5 billion rials on printing calendars and various magazines using funds from the public treasury.

In this same regard, he then discussed the fact that in the 1373 budget these kinds of expenditures and frills are prohibited. He said: I ask the speaker of the Majles to take measures even as the year begins to economize and avoid ostentation and to deal with law breakers in accordance with regulations.

At the end of his speech, the deputy from Bahar and Kabudar Ahang discussed inflation and the fluctuating foreign exchange rate in the year 1372, and he called for dealing seriously with violators and punishing according to the law those who disrupt the nation's economic system.

Mohammad Baqer Nowbakht, Deputy From Rasht

The next speaker was Nowbakht, deputy from Rasht. In his speech he offered congratulations on the new year. He said: The nation's management, in view of the characteristics and conditions in the year 1373, needs more planning and comprehensive thinking. The writing and approval of an orderly budget for the current year, whose approved revenues are less than 60 percent of the revenues approved for the previous year, and which has a 13-percent reduction in current expense credits and a 7-percent reduction in development credits in the Majles compared to the figures in the government's proposed budget, entails a coordinated effort by the government and the Majles to apply realistic management.

The speaker then discussed the utilization of the same resources and the submission of a more desirable performance report from the government and the Majles in the year 1373, and he called for the implementation of the following:

1 - The government should be careful to apply supervision, to intervene effectively in the nation's economic affairs and to deal seriously and lawfully with those who sell at high prices. Unfortunately, two related phenomena have always kept the government from taking real and proper measures in this regard, or else it has resisted. One of these two phenomena is the incorrect language some people have used, posing as concerned experts and economists, in describing the policy of economic adjustment and the need to adjust the market based on the mechanism of supply and demand. They say that practical supervision or any kind of government intervention in the market are obstacles to private sector cooperation in economic affairs. They suggest that the government's reasonable decision for rational and planned privatization may have been a mistake, and they constantly spread fear.

   The other phenomenon is the invisible economic abusers, who create such a furor the minute the government intervenes in a market affair that one would conclude that wherever the government does something or intervenes in the market, the situation gets worse.

   Continuing, he added: In submitting and approving the general form of the Consumer Rights Support Bill, the Majles and the government must first show that they are serious about this and that they will deal clearly with two realities, the first that government supervision and intervention to control the market and even with economic investment activities is not even in conflict with economic and investment goals, much less in conflict with the economic goals of Islam, and second that a distinction must be made between the private sector that wants sound participation and a reasonable profit in economic affairs and those who are abusers.

   In this same regard the speaker said: Therefore, the deliberations in the second consultation on the Consumer Rights Support Bill will be a good opportunity for the Majles to make the government more careful about preventing uncontrolled price increases, most of which are done without economic consideration on the pretext that foreign exchange rates have increased, and to use all government resources to supervise the marketing of goods at the finished cost with a reasonable profit percentage. This supervision will be no less important than defending the public against an enemy military invasion.

2 - Realistic and praiseworthy measures the government and the Majles have taken, which must be compiled and approved in the best possible way in

the year 1373, is the amendment to the Uniform Payments System Law and the increase in retirement pensions.

He said the implementation of this law has created many problems for government retirees. He said: In some cases retirement wages have dropped so drastically compared to employment wages that retirement is seen as complete bankruptcy.

Elsewhere in his talk he asked the National Expediency Discernment Council to approve Note 1, Article 1 of the Universal Payments System Law, which pertains to employees with bachelor's degrees and lower.

In conclusion he said: Another measure the Majles must take has to do with the Social Security Law and eliminating the age restrictions for women retirees. If this is done, women workers, who will have the ability to retire voluntarily without age restrictions, will have more of an opportunity to carry out their maternal responsibilities in the home. This will also create appropriate employment opportunities for individuals willing to work.

Jahanshah Sadiq, Deputy From Dorud And Azna

The final preagenda speaker was Sadiq, deputy from Dorud and Azna. He offered congratulations on the new year, and in his speech he discussed the province of Lorestan hosting the president of the republic and the joyous and unequalled public welcome he received. He said: The deputies from Lorestan declare their praise and thanks to the respected president of the republic, and they sincerely thank him for designating the province as one in need of development, industrial expansion, services, agriculture, and other services.

The speaker also added: Following numerous follow-up measures, messages concerning Lorestan's problems and issues to the executive organizations and the statements by the president of the republic, it is incumbent upon the executive officials, especially the members of the Council of Ministers, to give importance to alleviating the problems in the province of Lorestan, changing the face of the province, developing industry, ancillary petrochemical industries and the Arak refinery in Lorestan, developing higher education and educational affairs, and other things.

In conclusion he thanked the minister of the interior for making Pol-e Dokhtar va Azna ol-Shotor a municipality.

Legislation

Health Insurance Bill

The first item on the agenda at yesterday's open Majles session was the report from the first consultation of the Joint Health Care and Plan and Budget Commission concerning the National Health Insurance Bill.

Joint Commission's View

Hasan Aminlu, expert for the joint commission, gave a speech discussing this bill. He said: The nation's health care and treatment problems and malfunctions require that a basic change be made in the nation's health care system. This is necessary to establish social justice in the country and have subsidies be directed so that our people will receive good treatment, and also so that the people will not have problems when they go to the health care centers, which makes them disappointed with the government.

Continuing, he said: Clearly there are points in the details that will be changed in the second consultation.

Mr. Aminlu discussed the financial load from this bill. He said: Government staff employees are to pay between one-third and one-fifth of their own per-person treatment fees, and the government will pay the remainder as subsidies. If treatment retains its current subsidy and if the treatment situation is like this, and if government makes infrastructure investments for treatment, then the per-person cost of treatment at current rates will be 500 tumans.

Workers will be treated in accordance with the Social Security Law, and clearly a load will thereby be added to the Social Security Organization's responsibilities. Concerning rural people, the fee will be 250 tumans, of which one-third will be paid by the rural people themselves and the rest by the government as subsidies. Self-employed people will pay 100 percent of the costs themselves.

The government now pays 75 billion tumans for insurance. In the year 1373 the government will also pay 15 billion tumans for staff employees, bringing the total to 90 billion tumans. The government has also set aside 4 billion tumans to give the Imam's Aid Committee for the vulnerable classes. Therefore the total subsidies for treatment is 94 billion tumans.

However, the cost to the government in connection with this bill will be as follows: if we take 10 million people from the vulnerable classes into consideration at the 500 tumans, this will be 96,000 tumans for each person and for that number of people the total will be 60 billion tumans. If we consider 25 million rural people at 1,500 tumans per person per year, this will total 375 billion tumans. For 5 million government staff employees the cost will be 22.5 billion tumans, and the total for all groups will be 120 billion tumans. The government will also have to pay some 20 billion tumans for repeat treatment. The commission expert discussed the hospitals absorbing their own high costs. He said: The hospitals absorbing their own high costs is provided for until the end of the Second Five-Year Plan.

Dr. Jabbarzadeh, Opposition

Dr. Jabbarzadeh, deputy from Tabriz, spoke in opposition to the general form of the bill. He said: This bill cannot solve the existing insurance problems. Also, with

the formation of the Supreme Insurance Council, in effect the main responsibility of the minister of health care and treatment is being taken away from him and will be given to a nonspecialist council. Another of his objections to the bill is its method of financial procurement. He said: Every year the price of social security is increased. How are those who are covered by social security insurance going to pay for it?

He then criticized the policy of transferring government hospitals to the private sector. He said: The entire message of the bill is the transfer of government hospitals to the private sector, and if this bill is approved it will not benefit the people.

Dr. Zare', Support

Dr. Zare', deputy from Shiraz, spoke in support of the bill. He said: It is very important to have proper supervision of the implementation of treatment and providing coverage to all the people in society, and this need requires that a new change be made in the insurance system.

He also said: One of the bill's distinctions is that it will end the insurance monopoly . That is, people will be able to meet their treatment expenses entirely through insurance, and the physician's ties to money will be completely cut.

Rahbari, Opposition

Rahbari spoke in opposition to the National Health Insurance Bill. He said: The new insurance system that you want to pass will bring increased prices for the people. When you want to modernize the treatment system, in practice the people for whom you want to provide treatment will have to pay a high price for it, and in practice a person who cannot pay will expire.

He also added: Why is it that the physicians, pharmacies, and treatment centers do not accept this insurance? You go and look for the reason. The financial burden issue is that whoever has more money will receive good treatment, and a person who cannot pay will expire.

Rahbari also noted: What mechanism exists so that our rural people can go and get insured? Since they are not connected to any place that can insure them, in effect those who are old and in need of treatment will be insured, and those who are young will not be insured. In practice this will mean that the financial burden on the government's shoulders will be great, and this is very damaging and will hurt the nation's treatment system.

Kuhkan, Support

Another supporter of the aforementioned bill was Mohsen Kuhkan. During a speech he said: One of the bill's distinctions is that if we are going to subsidize drugs and treatment, we should give it directly to the patient, not to the importer, the distributor, and other people.

He then added: The gentlemen are saying that the nation and the government will have to pay more money, but this is not correct. Approving the bill will raise the quality of treatment, and this is acceptable to everyone.

Nurbakhsh, Opposition

Nurbakhsh spoke in opposition to this bill. He said: What they always say about drugs is that they are not available in the pharmacies, but they can be found on Naser Khosrow Street. Is there any guarantee that when this bill is approved we will no longer have problems getting drugs? He also said: Where in this bill does it say anything about society's vulnerable classes? We believe that government staff employees are also one of these vulnerable classes.

He also added: We believe that this bill reduces the prerogatives of the Ministry of Health Care, Treatment and Medical Education. We must strengthen this organization so it can supervise drugs and treatment. We should not reduce its supervisory role and give it to a council.

Dr. Sadr, Support

Dr. Sadr, deputy from Tehran, spoke in support of this bill, arguing we cannot say that universal insurance is not a good thing. He said: Every day the price of treatment supplies increases in the world and we cannot deny this. One day our brothers in the provinces were trying to get a CAT scan machine, and now they are trying to get an MRI machine. Next they will be wanting a laser machine. Therefore we cannot ignore these issues. We must accept the realities. In the nation's dysfunctional drug and treatment situation, this bill can solve some of the nation's problems.

He then said: The government cannot bear the country's entire burden. This will never happen. However, with the government's resources and the money the government pays to the insurance fund, it will definitely benefit the people. Dr. Sadr also added: High prices have nothing to do with the bill, because if you do not approve this bill, drugs and treatment will automatically go up.

Nowruzi, Opposition

'Abdollah Nowruzi, deputy from Molayer, spoke in opposition. He said: On the first Majles work day of the year, we are giving our nation the good news that Majles is causing prices to rise. We accept universal insurance, but this bill is not universal insurance.

He then said: When you want to collect the finished cost of drugs and treatment, how can professionals and self-employed people, many of whom do not have financial resources, bear the burden of these costs? The cost of heart surgery is already 1 to 2 million tumans. Who can pay for that? He said: The unemployment rate is already 11 percent. Do those people have the ability to pay for insurance? What are they going to do?

Nowruzi added: Mr. Hoseyni Shahrudi went to the hospital for treatment. When he came back he said: "what a joke." If they tell me to turn the military bases over to the private sector, I will do so, but I believe you should not transfer the hospitals.

Dr. Shahrzad, Support

Dr. Shahrzad, deputy from Esfahan, spoke in support with the bill. He said: I say to our dear people, treatment in the year 1373 will be as it was before, and there will be no change in rates or organization. In view of the fact that this bill is going through its first consultation, and its credit resources will have to be procured in the year 1374 [21 March 1995-20 March 1996], this is an answer to some of the respected opponents, for studying and approving this bill is not inconsistent with the Second Five-Year Plan, and it is certainly better for us to study it in the year 1373, The plans for universal insurance and social security services is definitely part of the Second Five-Year Plan. It is very likely that its implementation will be deferred to the year 1374.

He then said: I support the general form of the bill, but I do not fully support the bill's current form. When we reject this bill, that will mean that although the existing situation is not desirable, we want to accept it [as published].

Dr. Dastjerdi, a woman speaking in support of the bill, said: The government has left the deputies a free hand to make any kind of change to this bill. Today is a good opportunity for the Fourth Majles to correct the insurance situation for 35 million people in society. I am surprised that the opponents are saying this bill will make the situation worse for the people. Those who do not have an insurance booklet, such as the rural people and society's vulnerable classes, do not have anything. How are these people going to go to the treatment centers? For Caesarian operations in government hospitals, they must pay 20,000 tumans. Where are they going to get this?

She said: I have 70 office calls every day, and 20 of them have counterfeit insurance booklets from other people, because they do not have the money to pay.

She also emphasized: We members of the commission are 100 percent opposed to transferring hospitals to the private sector, but the hospitals must absorb their own high costs in this way so that they will economize on the materials they consume.

The minister of health care and treatment also spoke in support of this bill, and then the general form of the bill was put to a vote and approved.

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[Text] Legislative and Parliamentary Affairs Division. Last Tuesday the Majles met in open session chaired by Mr. Movahedi-Kermani. Maqsudpur, deputy from the Assyrian and Chaldean minorities, and Rowhani, deputy from Mahallat and Dalijan, gave speeches. Then Mr. Movahedi gave a short speech in which he offered condolences on the martyrdom of Imam Ja'far Sadeq (peace be upon him). Then the Majles took up its agenda, and we direct the attention of our esteemed readers to the details of the proceedings.

Shamshun Maqsudpur, Deputy From the Assyrian and Chaldean Minorities

In the area of food production, Iran can become a major exporter.

The first preagenda speaker at last Tuesday's open Majles session was Maqsudpur, deputy from the Assyrian and Chaldean minorities. He offered congratulations on the new year and discussed the priorities in the Second Five-Year Plan and its administrative weaknesses. He said: Economic experts and the nation's executive officials agree that the deadend arising from oil revenues must be resolved by increasing oil export activities. Under current circumstances agriculture is certainly the most important sector for achieving this objective, and it therefore demands special attention from the government.

He discussed the fact that Iran, which has the necessary resources, can achieve self-sufficiency in food production and can even become a major food exporter. He added: Last year, despite the limitations in this area, agricultural exports made up 40 percent of the nation's nonoil exports, and the agricultural sector accounted for 24 percent of the gross domestic product. We are already very close to self-sufficiency with regard to several very important products, yet only 25 percent of the arable lands are being used.

Continuing, he cited some of the important problems and priorities in the Second Five-Year Plan, including the need to alleviate the problems with ownership of agricultural lands; the need to change the system of utilization and to gradually get away from the limitations of the traditional system; the need for technical determination of cultivation methods for crops, which for years have alternately been subject to severe fluctuations on the consumer market; the need to increase investment in the industries affiliated with agriculture, emphasis on research and the education of farmers; the encouragement of agricultural exports; the guarantee of investment in the agricultural sector; and finally the need to procure judicial security in the country.

Continuing, he added: The need to give attention to agriculture is also important in the political dimension. For years the imperialist forces have used food as a weapon of war to impose their political views and they have imposed food boycotts on some countries. The possibility of using this weapon is still strong.

Continuing, the speaker said: There is no doubt that achieving the aforementioned objectives will require a revision of the organizational structure and the creation

of unified management organizations. It is hoped that in the studies now being done to bring about change in this country's administrative system, attention will also be given to this important matter.

Continuing, the deputy from the Assyrians said: The procedures provided in the Second Five-Year Plan for the government's executive agents are being implemented. The executive agents in terms of organizations are the ministries, and the government organizations and institutions. The organizational positions in each of them are held by human beings. Therefore if a comprehensive and appropriate management program composed of truly skilled and committed agents for implementing the programs does not emerge, this plan will undoubtedly be the subject of articles in the magazines.

He discussed the fact that so far no revolutionary steps have been taken to solve the problem of the bureaucracy and reform the administrative system and structure. He said: The nation's administrative problem is not merely a matter of malfunctions in the law or too many regulations. The major problem is considered to be the way the laws are implemented and how some executive officials deal with the public. It is in this regard that unaware or counterrevolutionary individuals appear with their filthy intentions to sow discontent.

In the same regard, the deputy from the Assyrians added: An example of nonrevolutionary dealings with the people by some officials is the hostile takeover of the property owned by the Tehran Assyrian Society on Azadi Street. About a year ago, in the middle of the night these urban lands were confiscated by the District 10 Municipal Office without informing the owner and obeying the Lands Possession Law. After this land was confiscated and the vegetation was destroyed, a sign identifying it as a place for cultivating municipal flowers and plants for the District 10 Municipal Office was erected, but instead of a place to grow flowers and plants it became a parking lot. Repeated contacts by the society's officials with the district municipal office have so far brought no result, despite repeated promises and the failure to implement the Urban Lands Possession Law. Several letters to the Ministry of the Interior have also gone unanswered.

Maqsudpur said he brought this matter up in the Majles reluctantly and that he had no choice other than to ask the minister of the interior to issue the necessary order concerning this matter.

In conclusion the speaker asked the minister of education and training to implement the measure enacted by the commission in charge of schools for religious minorities and the written commitment from Education and Training District 5 to close the afternoon shift at the Her Holiness Mary Educational Complex, because in the afternoons the classroom space under discussion is badly needed to carry out supplementary programs for students.

Mostafa Rowhani, Deputy From Dalijan and Mahallat

Isn't it a shame that Muslim girls in France are expelled from school for wearing Islamic attire?

The final preagenda speaker was Rowhani, deputy from Mahallat and Dalijan. During his speech he offered congratulations on the new year and condolences on the martyrdom of Imam Ja'far Sadeq (peace be upon him). He said: According to the experts, in the years 1371 [21 March 1992-20 March 1993] and 1372 [21 March 1993-20 March 1994], 31 of the 40 known natural and unnatural disasters in the world took place in Iran. According to the published statistics these losses total R1,000 billion.

Therefore, in view of the losses from the period of the Islamic revolution and the imposed war and the various disasters, it will be difficult to make up the losses, and one must pray for the success of the nation's highest officials.

Continuing, the speaker added: The First Five-Year Plan, with the implementation of infrastructure and essential work in the various organizations, has concluded more or less successfully. We have come close to self-sufficiency. The year 1373 [21 March 1994-20 March 1995] will be a year to welcome the Second Five-Year Plan. With guidance from our great leader, it will find reconciliation with God and the people.

Rowhani noted that we will endure all hardships to please God. He added: Some people have compared life to a battlefield, and they consider it a struggle to survive. Some people compare life to a playing field and consider life a matter of cooperation and competition. The need for competition entails two things, individual freedom and social order. This was the content of the exalted leader's New Year's message, who advised the nation to strengthen its work ethic and to observe social regulations in all affairs.

Perhaps this is the very thing that is needed for society to take on the form of a playing field where everyone has the right to compete and where positions and jobs are given based on individual talent and effort to those who have shown themselves more worthy in social competition. If someone violates the law, he is punished and is not exempt from Islamic punishments. Islamic justice is implemented, and the executive officials find the mechanism to implement justice, which is the elimination of racism and improper discrimination, because the exalted leader wants social justice to be carried out, and this goal will be achieved with the implementation of the commands of Islam.

Continuing, the speaker said: Isn't it a shame that today, despite the fact that everyone is free to choose how to dress, in France Muslim girls are expelled from school for the crime of wearing Islamic attire, and are deprived of education?

The deputy from Mahallat and Dalijan also said: The experts believe that in the year 1372 Iran's economy went through one of its most difficult years in the process of moving away from an economy relying on the market, and it suffered many pressures caused by economic adjustment. The fluctuating foreign exchange market increased so much that it was almost unprecedented in all of Iran's history. It is hoped that last year an historic lesson was learned by the nation's foreign exchange management. Of course, the repayments and extensions of the period allowed to meet financial commitments in the year 1372 was a great success, and in the year 1373 the government will find an opportunity to solve its economic problems.

Rowhani discussed the fact that the exalted leader of the Islamic revolution and the chiefs of the three powers all follow the school of Imam Sadeq (peace be upon him), they understand the exigencies of the time well and they have never abandoned their simple way of life. He added: Those who are close to them know that their way of life is even simpler than it was before the revolution.

He discussed the approval of the project to set prices and supervise basic goods by the Economic Council and the president of the republic in the year 1372. He called on the minister of commerce to implement this project as soon as possible.

The speaker also added: Our people do not complain about shortages, because our production is good, but they complain about discrimination and distribution.

At the end of his speech he issued memos to the officials concerning his electoral district.

Legislation

Bill Appending Note to Article 1 of Police Force Law

The first item on the agenda at yesterday's open Majles session was the report from the first consultation of the Councils and Domestic Affairs Commission concerning the Bill Appending a Note to Article 1 of the Police Force Law, the general form of which was not approved and was rejected.

Concerning this a replacement said: "All the executive organizations, which due to the necessity for lawful authorization have a unit to protect and guard their assets, resources and installations, will be exempt from Note 1 with approval from the Council of Ministers."

It is worth mentioning that the Councils and Domestic Affairs Commission rejected this bill, for which the most important reasons are as follows:

1 - The basic conflict between the proposed bill and the philosophy of the law consolidating police forces, enacted by the Majles, which was aimed at consolidating forces and centralizing the police security forces.

2 - The conflict between the proposed bill and the nation's general policies on the need for unity and a single organization for the police and security forces.

3 - So far the note to Article 1 of the police force law requiring the merging of the police guards in the government organizations with the police forces has not been implemented nor has it elicited praise or blame due to the fact that the Employment Law is still before the Majles. Therefore, to approve this bill would be to change the earlier Majles measure too soon.

4 - It is necessary that all the armed forces be connected to the General Armed Forces Command Staff so that this can be achieved by merging the organization security forces into the police force and putting them under its mantle. Approving this bill would be in conflict with that policy.

5 - Maintaining order and security in accordance with the law is the responsibility of the police force. According to Paragraph 5, Article 4, the mission and duties of the police force as enacted in 1369 [21 March 1990-20 March 1991] is to protect the classified sites and points, and approving this bill would be in conflict with the previous measure.

Motion To Supervise Government Employee Foreign Travel

The second item on the agenda was the urgent Motion To Supervise Government Employee Foreign Travel, the general form of which was approved.

Concerning this motion, the opposing deputies took the view that the aforementioned motion was already given Note 13 of the 1373 budget bill, and that there is no need for a new law. The supporters emphasized that the budget is for one year and cannot be a permanent law.

It is worth mentioning that a number of the deputies sought to eliminate the motion's urgent status. Discussing this proposal, Mohammad Reza Bahonar said: Since we have a law for the year 1373, the aforementioned motion should therefore be an ordinary motion that will have a second consultation, in order to be comprehensive and well-considered. It will be worked on for a year in order to be implemented in the year 1374 [21 March 1995-20 March 1996].

After talks by opponents and supporters, the proposal to remove the urgent status was put to a vote and approved.

Motion To Protect and Utilize Wetlands

The next item on the agenda was the report from the first consultation of the Agriculture Commission concerning the Motion To Protect and Utilize the Wetlands of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the general form of which was approved.

Amendment to Article 17 of the Judicial Courts Appeals Law

The fourth item on the agenda was the report from the second consultation of the Judicial Affairs Commission concerning the Motion To Amend Article 17 of the Judicial Courts Appeals Law, enacted 5/17/1372 [8 August 1993], which was approved by the deputies.

Article 1: Article 17 of the Judicial Courts Appeals Law enacted 5/17/1372 is amended as follows:

Article 17: In cases where a court's final verdict is in conflict with religious law or the law, even if it has been affirmed by the Supreme Court, within 30 days of the verdict's announcement the national public prosecutor may request one review from the Supreme Court. A special branch of the National Supreme Court will be designated to deal with these cases.

Motion To Append a Paragraph to Note 15 of the 1372 Budget Bill

The next item on the agenda was the report from the second consultation of the Accounting Court Commission concerning the Motion To Append a Paragraph to Note 15 of the 1372 National Budget Bill, of which Article 1 was approved.

Article 1: Because of the special procedures in the educational system, Payam-e Nur University may again spend 65 percent of its current expense and allocated credits and also 25 percent of its development credits based on the Law on Procedures for Conducting Financial Affairs and Transactions of the Universities and Institutions of Higher Learning and Research, without adhering to the government's other general regulations.

Report on the Research and Investigation of the Haj and Pilgrimages Organization

The final item on the agenda was the report from the Culture and Islamic Art Commission concerning the research and investigation of the Haj and Pilgrimages Organization, which was read by the commission expert as follows:

After the report on the request for research and investigation of the financial resources of the Haj and Pilgrimages Organization by Mr. Bani-Hashemi, the respected deputy from Mashhad, the respected Majles approved the continuation of the research and investigation. The Islamic Guidance Commission appointed Messrs. Seyyed Kia'i-Nezhad, Seyyed Hashem Bani-Hashemi, Seyyed Ahmad Musavi, and 'Ali Zadsar to deal with the matter and to report the result.

The aforementioned council appointed Mr. 'Ali Zadsar as the group's chief. It then printed an announcement in the press asking everyone to send any documents or papers on this matter to the Islamic Guidance Commission. The resources for the research and investigation consist of: (1) resources from the public; (2) a careful study of the written documents and evidence; (3) statements from officials; (4) an inspection of the building; and (5) consideration of the views of the experts concerning the aforementioned resources.

It is noted: (1) no documents or evidence of any kind were sent to the commission by the people; (2) there were no telephone contacts or personal visits by any real persons or legal entities; (3) all the documents and financial evidence from the beginning to the end of the building's operation were studied and nothing negative of any kind was found; and (4) all the relevant documents, financial, planning, technical, bidding and other things are included in the report.

Detailed discussions were held with the respected representative of the vice regent for pilgrimage affairs and with the respected minister of culture of Islamic guidance, the respected chief of the Haj and Pilgrimages Organization, and the builders of the building, and all of those dear ones answered the questions from the members of the council and cooperated.

In a careful and lengthy inspection of the building all the members of the council learned the details and the quality of the building:

1 - The money to build the Haj and Pilgrimages Building was provided in the organization's annual budget, and was spent in numerous years after Majles approval. Therefore, there was no extra money, because the annual Haj and Pilgrimages surplus was deposited into the president of the republic's account and was spent as determined by the respected president of the republic.

2 - According to the views of His Holiness the Imam (peace be upon him), the Haj and Pilgrimages Organization sells the expenses of the pilgrimage to the pilgrims, meaning that the haj sales are final and not on account. Therefore it owns the money and will be authorized to spend it.

3 - With the registration of the respected pilgrims in the year 1363 [21 March 1984-20 March 1985], R270,000 was collected from each pilgrim and they were sent in accordance with a timetable authorized by His Holiness the Imam (peace be upon him), and in this regard written documents were submitted.

4 - The construction of the building took almost 85 months and it cost almost R7 billion. According to the views of the experts and the value of money at that time, the price is appropriate. If exact numbers and figures are needed, the applicant may report to the Islamic Culture and Guidance Commission and see them.

5 - The construction of this great building was done with decoration suitable for the position of the Islamic Republic of Iran, because Islamic Iran is the center of the Muslim world.

6 - The collection of the difference in the year 1372 and the sending of people who were not on the priority list was a bitter experience. The respected haj officials determined that they would declare plainly that as long as one pilgrim remained from the year 1363, they would not agree to any other motion or proposal and that they would reject the collection of differences, although the decision to collect the difference or not collect it is the decision of the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and if the government authorizes that such a thing be done, that definitely makes it possible.

In conclusion, with thanks to the officials, it is hereby announced that this report is late in appearing, but its submission was delayed because of the presence of the 1373 budget bill on the Majles agenda.

Letter From More Than 158 Deputies Concerning Armenia's Downing of the C-130 Aircraft

Respected speaker of the Majles:

With greetings and congratulations on the New Year to all compatriots, in the final days of the year 1372, when our compatriots were praying at the court of God and were hoping for peace, tranquility and stability in all the world, the hand of criminality came out of the sleeve of the deluded Armenian army and shot down a C-130 aircraft carrying the innocent families of Iranian diplomats, and as the merciless slaughter of the people of the Republic of Azerbaijan continued, it revived the habit of killing people and waging rebellion.

Therefore, with condolences to our dear compatriots, and especially the bereaved families, and with protest against the silence of the international organizations, especially the so-called Human Rights Organization, in the face of this air piracy by the army of Armenia, which is the main perpetrator of this open and terrifying crime in the Karabakh area, we demand an expeditious answer for these crimes from the Government of Armenia, and we demand that the Foreign Ministry of the Islamic Republic of Iran pursue this matter seriously.

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